



A special 'Christmass' dinner at a Porthcawl church. (See page 8 for report and pictures)

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2011

OBJECTIONS OVER-RULED FOR THE OGMORE VALLEY SCHEME

Go-ahead for caravan site at Glynogwr

A SITE for touring caravans is to be set up in the Ogmores Valley. Planning consent has been given by Bridgend planners for land at Hendre Ifan Goch Farm at Glynogwr to be turned into a 60-pitch caravan site for mobile tourists.

The scheme includes provision of an office and toilets and the site will be operated in association with the Caravan Club.

It covers 1.9 hectares of grazing land and lies on the valley floor, alongside the Ogwr Fach and the Nant Hendre Ifan Goch.

The area is wooded and the woodland will be retained, with extra planting taking place to try and screen the site from properties in Gilfach Goch.

It will be in use for only five to six months over the summer period, and access will be via the existing track which leads to the Lakeside Farm Park.

The report to the Development Control committee stated that the Lakeside Farm Park is a countryside recreation facility, which

by JAYNE ISAAC

offered access to mountain bike trails and the Celtic Trail, plus a trout fishing lake, restaurant and a conference venue, although its website indicates that the park is closed at present.

The council's manager for regeneration said that he fully supported the project because of the demand in the area for touring caravan venues.

At present, there is only limited provision for camping and caravans in the valleys. This development would be a positive tourism asset in the borough.

The Environment Agency has pointed out that part of the site lies within Zone C2, which is highly vulnerable to flooding.

The site design has been amended to ensure that the caravan pitches, shower block and offices are now located outside the area of flood risk.

However, the access road into the site is still considered to be susceptible to flooding.

Objections to the application were lodged by Rhondda Cynon

Taff Council's area development control committee, because it would have a detrimental impact on the existing landscape.

There was also an objection from residents of Glyncoch, on the grounds of the site not being fully screened and other environmental issues.

Councillors heard that the site lies within a Special Landscape Area, outside of a designated settlement boundary.

Officers recommended granting consent as it complied with government and council policy and did not adversely affect the visual amenities of the area enough to warrant refusal.

A series of planning conditions have been imposed, including one that states the site can only be used from either April 1 or the Thursday before Easter, whichever is earlier, to October 31. The site must be cleared of all caravans by November 1.

Planners have also had talks with the applicants about using a sensitive material like Grasscrete to surface the caravan pitches, to avoid a series of black tar slabs being laid down.

A touch of España at Christmas?



Photograph by MANDY THOMAS

There was a touch of the Pamplona bull-run on Christmas morning when this red bandana group joined Porthcawl's charity swim. (Turn to page 6 and 7 for a report and more photos).

PLANNERS GIVE A GREEN LIGHT TO PORTHCAWL SEAFRONT DEVELOPMENT

A LANDMARK development on Porthcawl seaford has been approved by Bridgend planners.

Permission has been granted for 60 assisted living apartments to be built on land at the rear of The Seabank Hotel in Porthcawl.

But part of the development will be visible from the seaford, and has been designed with a nautical theme, including a blue fin structure.

Developers McCarthy and Stone held an information day in the autumn to which Porthcawl organisations were invited to see the details for themselves.

The new plan replaces an earlier con-

sulted to build 63 sheltered apartments on the site.

The new building will be mainly four storeys in height, but would be reduced to three storeys at the north western corner and increased to five at the south western corner, where a large 'fin' structure is proposed.

The building will be finished in smooth render coloured butter-milk, pale green and white with grey slate to the roof. Balconies to the apartments will be fitted with smoked glass panels.

Access will be from Picton Avenue and 25 car parking spaces will be provided within the site.

The apartments will be a combination of one and two-bedroom units. There will be communal facilities and services including a restaurant and kitchen serving hot meals at lunch time.

Residents will also get an hour a week of domestic help, with the option to buy in more.

All the apartments are wheelchair accessible and would attract an older resident than a sheltered housing scheme. Research has shown that residents in assisted living homes are expected to be 83,

compared to 75 in sheltered homes.

There were objections from some nearby residents, who were concerned about a possible increase in parking on their streets, but officers state that because of the age of the occupants, they will be less likely to own a car and require a parking space.

They add that the principle of building on this site was established when the firm won an appeal to the Welsh Assembly Government to build 63 apartments on the site.

Officers feel that this new scheme is an improvement on what was originally proposed and approved.

In their appraisal, officers state that the location of this development, close to the Seabank Hotel with its

art deco influences, has resulted in the chosen design.

The five-storey element of the scheme which fronts the development has a nautical theme with a fin and rigging and is complemented by the projecting deck-like balconies of the apartments.

At the back of the site, the development is lower and more in keeping with the residential streets around.

The development control committee agreed to grant consent, subject to McCarthy and Stone signing a Section 106 agreement to pay £332,843 towards the provision of affordable housing in the borough.

A number of planning conditions have also been laid down.

JANE ISAAC

It's third time unlucky as flooding hits hospital again

A THIRD leak has taken place at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, causing damage to ceilings and walls.

Workmen had to be brought in to deal with the damage after 300 gallons of water cascaded through the Bridgend Clinic (which is the private wing of the hospital) and then leaked into the Short Stay unit below.

The Oasis Restaurant and the boardroom were also affected.

by JAYNE ISAAC

This is the third time that the hospital has suffered damage as a result of leaks in the heating system. The first was in the day surgery unit and the second was in the children's clinic.

Both leaks caused damage, although ABM Health Board has not yet revealed how much repairing the damage has cost.

Staff allege that the leaks were the result of the heating being switched off in these areas of the hospital.

They claim that the day surgery unit and the children's clinic had their heating switched off over a weekend before Christmas, as they were not in use.

Unfortunately, this was also the weekend when temperatures plunged to well below zero.

Staff also claim that the latest leak was caused by the heating being switched off to this part of the hospital over Christmas and new year when it was not in use.

Staff returning to work on Tuesday were confronted with workmen trying to repair the damage.

But the board has denied that the first two leaks were caused by

heating being switched off. They stated that malfunctioning pieces of equipment in both areas of the hospital were to blame.

This equipment should have monitored the temperature and regulated the heating system accordingly.

The GEM has now asked ABM if the third leak is the result of yet another malfunction in the heating system or, if this time, the heating was switched off.

We have suggested that if a malfunction is to blame, the board should carry out a complete investigation of the heating system in the hospital to prevent any further flooding and damage to the building.

At the time of going to press, no response had been received.

Arrest made

POLICE have arrested a man in connection with a reported sexual assault on New Year's Eve in North Cornelly.

A spokesman reported: "A 20-year-old male has been arrested and is in custody assisting police with their enquiries."

MBEs for volunteers

A stalwart member of Maesteg Salvation Army, and a former director of Bridged Samaritans received MBEs in the New Year Honours List.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL DETAILS.

Man (22) is found dead

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating the sudden death of a 22-year-old man whose body was found at his home at Sandfields, Aberkenfig, at about 11.40am on Monday, January 3.

He has been named locally as Andrew Evans, who played rugby for Tondur RFC.

A police spokesman said: "The death is not being treated as suspicious; the next of kin and HM Coroner have been informed."

A typical day at the (e-mail) inbox of an MP

IT is New Year's Eve, and here I am looking at my e-mail inbox and letters, as I try to tidy up the last few hours of 2010.

In many ways, these correspondences offer a nice cross section of some of the communications that an MP receives and the varied topics dealt with every day.

I have a wonderful letter from a senior military man that I sat next to at a defence discussion in the House of Commons in December. We were there to discuss the strategic defence and security review.

During the course of the discussion, we debated public support for the armed forces and the need for MPs to understand the military. I told the story of how during the election one of my opponents had posed with a party member dressed as a nurse to indicate support for the NHS, and how this had been likened to my wearing military fatigues as part of the armed forces parliamentary scheme.

My dinner companion was shocked and wrote to say that he felt it was 'essential for you to wear the same protective clothing as everyone else, so that you could get your hands dirty and work alongside service personnel'.

It was kind of him to remember the conversation. What made me smile, however, was the next part of the letter that went on to ask: "By the way, do you ever visit Porthcawl? The Pavilion there was opened by my cousin Russell Mabley on the day that I was born. My visits there at a young age frequently involved making shopping trips to Bridgend, I think nine miles away."

The letter is awaiting a reply while I hunt for an old collection of photographs of Porthcawl that I have in a box which I want to send to my correspondent, to hopefully remind him of his cousin and Porthcawl. It also goes to show you can find surprising connections with people you would never have expected.

I have two e-mails from a frequent correspondent who wants me to sign two Early Day Motions. The EDMs both relate to animal rights issues. The first 'opposes the cruelty of the rodeo in Canada. During a rodeo, animals are subjected to immense stress and cruelty in events such as 'calf roping.'

In this event, the calf is goaded, prodded and often has its tail twisted to ensure that it bursts out of its chute at full speed. The terrified calf is then chased by a mounted rider who must lasso the calf, jump off his horse, pick up the calf, slam it to the ground and tie three of its feet together.

The second relates to The Coalition Government's decision to offer the House of Commons an opportunity to 'express its view' on repeal of the Hunting Act through a vote on a parliamentary motion.

ANIMAL LOVER

The e-mailer goes on to say that 'Like the vast majority of people in Britain, I am an animal lover. I am one of the 85 per cent of the public who don't want to see a return to hare hunting and coursing, one of the 84 per cent who don't want to see the clock turned back to stag hunting, and one of the 75 per cent of people who think fox hunting should remain consigned to history.'

This correspondent knows that I don't sign EDMs, which are a very expensive form of petitioning by MPs which have no impact on government policy. I prefer to write to ministers in relation to issues raised or to ask Parliamentary questions.

I have already written on the rodeo issue and a copy of the reply will be forwarded; and I have written to numerous constituents confirming that I will oppose any repeal of the Hunting Act.

I have upset one constituent who wrote asking me to introduce a Private Member's Bill to prevent young drivers carrying more than one passenger. The system for MPs to introduce their own

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an exclusive monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.



Bills to Parliament is something of a lottery.

The names of 20 MPs are drawn at random once a year with the right to introduce a Private Member's Bill to Parliament. In practice, only the first seven or so have the opportunity for their Bills to be the subject of a second reading debate, which is required for the Bill to hope to progress into law. I explained that on that basis, it is highly unlikely that I would get such an opportunity.

In my reply, I had pointed out that such a restriction on the carrying of passengers would perhaps not be effective in protecting young drivers or their passengers. It would not reduce the number of young drivers on the road, nor would it reduce the number of accidents they have.

I commended the National Assembly which introduced a scheme that target young drivers offering additional training under a scheme called Pass Plus Cymru.

The scheme is effective and here in Bridgend, we have lower than the national average number of recorded accidents and fatalities for young drivers.

My correspondent does not accept this argument and wants action. I shall write to the Transport Minister and see what he thinks of the suggestion...

The final e-mail brings wonderful news. Two people I worked with in Bridgend Samaritans have been awarded MBEs in the new Year Honours list. Darren and Paul worked diligently to reduce suicides and to raise awareness of the variety of ways of reaching out to the help and support Samaritans offer.

There were times when we seemed to talk almost daily and they never stopped pushing for improved services to help those who were desperately distressed.

These unknown and unsung heroes are finally being recognised. Well done to Darren and Paul – and well done the Samaritans.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Poppy flies high at the Christmas swim



ABOVE: The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emmet-Lewis (left), with Linda Fletcher, Ruth Birch and Keith E Morgan.



A GIANT poppy was one symbol that could hardly be missed at this year's Porthcawl Christmas swim.

Ruth Birch, the chairman of the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion, together with her colleague Linda Fletcher, joined the swim to

raise money for the Legion's Poppy Appeal.

GEM photographer Keith E Morgan was also officially registered for the swim, and raised cash for the appeal.

Ruth raised more than £200 in sponsorship for the appeal, while Keith was able to raise £125.

'Get the MoD college built to bring in cash'

IAM at a loss to understand why we have spent £18.7 million on consultancy fees for the Training College scheme at MoD St Athan.

A list of names and awards should be published. I held an education committee in the RAF, who know everything about training, and was a major supplier of technical products to the MoD.

You need a syllabus of what needs teaching;

The airport is a 'white elephant'

ISHOULD like to comment on the letter from D Andrews in The GEM (December 23), which referred to the inconveniences and inadequacies at Cardiff Airport.

Wales is a country still not overly populated, and all areas are badly served by road or rail.

Consequently, air lines see little profit in 'pandering' to our needs, nor do the railways.

North Wales is adequately served from Liverpool and Manchester, mid-Wales relies on Birmingham

and, of course, south Wales relied on Birmingham until the fairly recent upgrading of Bristol and even Exeter.

The only 'International' part about Cardiff is the regular KLM flights that take you to Schiphol and then anywhere in the world.

Yes, all the comments about pick-up/drop-off are valid, also the baggage trolley charges etc... but all of these are necessary to maintain our 'white elephant' at Rhooose.

There must be alternative solutions, such as short range, REGULAR internal UK flights
James Tuttle

then the teachers will tell you what they need in the way of equipment, building and wages.

The local authority will tell you what infrastructure is needed.

All of this for free or a few thousand pounds!

Parasitic quangos and 'jobs for the boys' are not free. Someone needs to explain soon, and get the college built to bring in some money.

DE Jenkins,

Air passengers opt for Bristol

WITH reference to recent letters on passengers' being inconvenienced at Cardiff Airport, we have deserted Cardiff for Bristol – together with our two daughters, sons in law, five grandchildren – as well as friends from Porthcawl.

We have voted with our feet.

Rhodri Williams,

QUICK TIP!

EVEN if you can get to the DIY shop to buy one, a snow shovel can be surprisingly expensive.

Fix a piece of plywood at least a foot wide to a length of two by one timber and grease it with cooking oil – that prevents the snow from sticking – it works better than anything you will buy in the shops.

David Alexander

GEM LETTERS EXTRA

...and hardy souls brave the icy waters for swim!



See page 7 for more pictures of the Porthcawl Christmas swim.



HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL JANUARY 13)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
06 Thur	07.32	9.8	19.46	9.5
07 Fri	08.07	9.6	20.19	9.3
08 Sat	08.44	9.4	20.58	9.1
09 Sun	09.16	9.1	21.27	8.8
10 Mon	09.43	8.8	22.04	8.5
11 Tues	10.18	8.2	22.40	8.1
12 Wed	11.03	8.0	23.23	7.8
13 Thur	11.47	7.7		

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

New opportunities strategy for older people

THE MOORLANDS DAY CENTRE IS TO CLOSE IN PACKAGE CHANGE

THE Moorlands day care centre in Porthcawl is to be closed – as part of a package of changes to the way in which older people receive social care.

A report to Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet outlined a new strategy for providing daytime opportunities for older people in the borough, and part of the new strategy entails setting up a network of "community cafes" to be operated by the volun-

tary sector with support from social services.

The Moorlands Centre is leased from the Rest Home and situated at Rest Bay. It offers 10 places, six days a week, for older people with mental illness and dementia. It provides activities, a hot meal and transport.

Moorlands is also supported by Bridgend and District Crossroads Care who provide occupational activities for two hours a day.

The lease for Moorlands expires next March and it is proposed that this is not

Report by Jayne Isaac

renewed and the service provided transferred to the Minerva Street day centre in Bridgend.

The report states that Moorlands has "significant" limitations which mean that people with poor mobility are prevented from using it.

The isolated nature of the site also makes it unsuitable as the location of one of the new community cafes being proposed.

A project group has been set up to ensure

that the 11 people using Moorlands will have access to the same level of service either at Minerva Street or the local community café which is run by Crossroads in Porthcawl.

There will be consultation with the users and their families or carers to ensure continuity of support. The community café will be supported by social services to extend its days of operation to accommodate the Moorlands users.

Minerva Street will also receive extra resources to provide longer hours of operation on Saturdays. The Crossroads support currently at Moorlands will transfer to Minerva Street.

The report says that demand for day services will increase within the borough as the proportion of retired people increases over the next 20 years.

There will be a 22 per cent rise in the number of people aged 65 and over by 2015. Those aged 85 and over will increase by 23 per cent.

The report points out that the desire for "social interaction and meaningful activities" does not wane as people get older, although their opportunities do.

The council says it has been moving the focus away from providing day services in council buildings for some time, in favour of putting activities on within the community.

At the moment, the council runs three day centres for older people. Apart from Moorlands, the others are:

Fairy tales in Pencoed

LOCAL children are being invited to Pencoed Library – to listen to their favourite fairy tales.

For youngsters aged under-11, special story-time and craft sessions will be taking place on the first six Saturdays of the year from January 8 to February 12 from 10.45am-11.45am, celebrating their top choices.

Admission is free. Please note that all children under eight must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

For further details, call Pencoed Library on (01656) 754840.

Minerva Street, which at present, offers 40 places five days a week to older, frail people and to eight older people with mental illness or dementia. Vernon Hart Centre in Nantyllyon, where there are 30 places five days a week and seven older people with a learning disability also use the centre.

Both provide activities, a hot meal and transport.

A multi-agency group has been formed with health professionals to agree a model for future daytime services for older people. This new strategy is expected to save the council £100,000 a year from next April.

It entails co-ordinating existing groups and clubs in the community and to provide information about them.

Those people at risk of becoming socially isolated will be encouraged to attend community cafes and befriending groups delivered by voluntary organisations.

More intense support and intervention will be available for the much smaller numbers of people who may need assistance and help, sometimes at home.

The new group is now co-ordinating the development of locally-based community cafes to offer day-time opportunities to elderly people and their carers.

These cafes will offer informal support, lunches, information and activities.

Each café will provide outreach to appoint local community leaders who will act as "champions" for community development and will find people at risk of isolation.

There should be two cafes operating by April with plans for others to be set up in each locality by next December. It is hoped a network of cafes will be formed which will be self sufficient financially.

A bid of £200,000 is being made to the Big Lottery Fund to run befriending schemes as part of the community café development.

As a result of these changes, it is expected there will be less demand for traditional day centre places and eventually, the revenue spent supporting these centres will transfer to the cafes.

A further review of the future for these centres will then be made.

The council cabinet has approved the new strategy.

Concert will raise funds – and give Nicky a rousing send-off!

SOME of Bridgend county borough's brightest talents, almost all former members of the Bridgend Youth Theatre, are getting together for a fundraising night this Saturday at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion.

Apart from the fundraising aspect, the evening is to celebrate the fact that Nicky Phillips, a youth theatre stalwart, has been offered a place at the Welsh College of Music and Drama (WCMD) to study musical theatre.

Nicky has performed in a wide variety of roles with the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT), and with amateur operatic groups in Porthcawl and Maesteg.

However, getting that suitable place in a prestigious drama college has been difficult.

Nicky told The GEM: "I have had a few rejections, but I have kept busy. I also gained a lot of experience through being a tutor with the youth theatre junior groups."

"In fact, some of the performers on Saturday will be former pupils of mine."

There is also, as with all the best showbiz stories, that crucial element of good luck.

When Roger Burnell decided that the BYT would put on the very challenging musical *Sweeney Todd*, Nicky was an assistant director. The lead role of Sweeney went to Scott Dale.

However, with only two weeks to go before opening night, Scott found that he had been selected for boot camp in the *X-Factor*, and he was forced to choose because the dates clashed.



ABOVE: Nicky Phillips as Sweeney Todd.

As a result Nicky was drafted in and had to learn the part in very quick time. Remembering the complicated stage directions, the dialogue and the songs was tough.

There were plenty of worried faces – even on dress rehearsal night, but it all came together with an audience. What is more, in the audience was a representative of the WCMD and the rest is history!

So, the evening will be a celebration of the highs and lows of show business, featuring young performers who are already making a mark on stage and on TV, and others with the talent to do so in the future.

In an odd way, it will also be saying 'goodbye' to Nicky Phillips. Nicky explained: "Due to Equity rules, I will have to change my name as someone already 'owns' Nicky Philips."

"My new performing name as of January 8 will be Nicky Taliesin. I chose this as Taliesin is my grandad's first name (he died before I was born) and it is also my great-uncles first name, and he was like a grandad to me, and always told me I should follow my

dreams and perform. A bit cheesy but they both mean a lot to me and I like the name too!

Definite performers include: Nicky Phillips, Ben Rowland and Charlotte Hatchett (played leads in *Jekyll and Hyde* in Porthcawl Comp's production), James Morgan (Cosmo Brown in BYT's *Singing in the Rain*), Katie Salt (Maria in BYT's *West Side Story*), Melissa Thomas (Gypsy in BYT's *Gypsy*), Mel Stevens (Mrs Lovett in BYT's *Sweeney Todd*), Alice Davies (Eponine in Porthcawl Comp's forthcoming *Les Miserables*), Joe Wiltshire-Smith (former-pupil, Tobias in BYT's *Sweeney Todd*), Ashley Hunt (Judd in Porthcawl Comp's *Oklahoma*), Mari and Lowri Izzard (former pupils and both Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* in Maesteg), Dan Parker (Paul in BYT's *Chorus Line*).

On the subject of equity rules, Katie Salt has now become Katie-Elin Salt, and was recently singled out by a national newspaper as a Welsh actress to look out for, after making her debut in the National Theatre Wales production that played in Bridgend.

The performers will be backed by a four-piece band - Neil Parker (musical director and piano), Phil Julliff (keyboards), Phil Hughes (percussion) and James Watkins (bass).

The show, entitled *Mosaic of Musicals*, is on Saturday, January 8, at 7.30pm, and tickets are available from the Grand Pavilion box office on 01656 815995

WHAT A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR CHARITY!



MAESTEG Animal Welfare Society secured the purchase of their charity shop in Maesteg during their 'Silver Jubilee' year and just in time for Christmas.

We were asked to vacate the premises in January 2010 as the landlord was selling up, but we have now secured the future of the charity and the future for helping ani-

mals. Jan Brody told The GEM: "We are a small independent charity that relies on sales from our charity shop and donations. We are run entirely by volunteers so all our proceeds go to helping animals and the community. Visit us at 4 Church Street, Maesteg, and pick up a bargain."

If you would like to give an animal a home, or give a donation, contact Jan 01656 721496.

Police pay a visit to the Sandville



The hydrotherapy pool.



ABOVE: Sister Gwyneth Poacher and Gary Banks welcoming Chief Constable, Peter Vaughan, and Chief Superintendent Carl Davies, to the Sandville Self Help Centre.



ABOVE: The officers are shown St Michael's Church.

Photos by KEITH E MORGAN

THE Chief Constable of the South Wales Police Force, Peter Vaughan, recently visited the Sandville Self-Help Centre, accompanied by Chief Superintendent Carl Davies.

They were given a conducted tour by Gary Banks, manager of the Sandville, and both said they were impressed by what they saw.

Shops scheme development will transform the Elder Yard

TWO new shops are to be built in Elder Yard in Bridgend town centre as part of the redevelopment of the Elder Street area.

HD Ltd, which is owned by the Hegarty Family, lodged the application for the two new retail units to be provided in a single building on empty land on the northern side of Elder Street, near the cottages which are currently being refurbished.

At the moment, the site is a concrete hard standing enclosed by concrete bollards.

The scheme is part of the larger masterplan known as Elder Yard, which aims to reinstate the old area of the town centre that has been semi-derelict for years.

The new building will be made of natural dressed stone, stained hardwood, plate glass and lignum cladding panels.

The shops will open up onto Elder Street.

The development is located within the Bridgend town centre conservation area and close to the listed buildings of the Victoria Inn and the Elder Street cottages.

In his observations,

Missing woman: Police appeal

SOUTH Wales Police are appealing for information about the whereabouts of 50-year-old Marian Brailey-Tucker, who went missing from the Princess of Wales hospital on Christmas Eve at 9pm.

A spokesperson said: "Marian is originally from the Penarth area. She has access to a Silver Renault Clio, registration number CP04 KNK and is described as, white, 5ft 8in tall, of stocky build, with black wavy hair.

"She was last seen wearing a black cardigan, black top with grey hearts on, a black skirt and a long grey coat.

"She was also wearing black boots with a gold braid."

Anyone with information should contact Bridgend Police station on 01656 655555.

by JAYNE ISAAC

the council's head of conservation and design said that the lignum cladding panels, although coated with a natural wood finish, have the disadvantage of looking more like external formica rather than real wood.

His report goes on: "The design statement gives no hint of why this wood and fake wood finish, redolent of spurious sustainability, is considered appropriate for Bridgend town centre."

He also expressed concern about approving plans when no specifications for the colour of the single ply roofing system has been received and without details of the northern and eastern elevations.

The report states that the shop fronts are to be made of sheets of plate glass and adds: "No effort has been made to add richness or interest to enhance the character of Bridgend Town Centre Conservation Area."

"Towns have been blighted since the 1960s by the spurious argument that opening up the interior of shops with plate glass enhances the attractiveness of shopping areas.

"Buildings need intrinsic interest as a frame for the retail display so that if, as is all too common, the display is banal, there is still incident to hold the eye."

The observations also go on to describe the design as "bland" and dark, in contrast to the lightness of Bridgend's rendered historic buildings and also with the colourfully restored Elder Cottages.

The officer suggested inviting the architect and client to a meeting to try to raise the quality of the design.

But he added that the proposal was "just preferable" to allowing the site to remain derelict in the heart of the town and would represent a marginal enhancement of the appearance of the conservation area.

The Environment Agency asked for a flood consequence assessment to be com-

pleted by the applicant, but this has not been done and the agency is objecting to the application.

The agency added that if the council went ahead and granted consent against the objections of the agency, they would report the issue to the Welsh Assembly Government.

In their appraisal of the application, planning officers said that the scheme was located within the established retail centre and primary shopping area of Bridgend.

The council's policies encourage new retail development in town centres and there are no objections in principle to the development.

The report stated that the proposed development would help mask the rather unsightly rear of shops in Adare Street.

Given that the existing site is vacant and run down, the reasonably modest scale of the new building would enhance the street scene and could be said to be compatible with council policies.

It was agreed to make the consent, subject to a Section 106 agreement to provide a wall and landscaping.

by PHILIP IRWIN

A MAESTEG woman who has given more than 40 years service to the Salvation Army, has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's honours list.

Glenda Howells joined up when she was just 16, and has been a loyal member ever since, fulfilling a number of roles in the Maesteg branch.

Capt John Pugh of the local branch paid a full-some tribute to Glenda when he spoke to The GEM.

He said: "Glenda has done so much for us. She is our finance officer, plays tenor horn in the band, and is the pianist for the Salvation Army Choir – as well as at church."

"For as long as I can remember, Glenda has used her holiday time to do Salvation Army work. She and her husband John have been great supporters for so long."

For Glenda herself, the whole experience appears to have been a bit overwhelming.

She told The GEM: "It has been almost surreal."

"I didn't know I knew so many people...So many have been in touch to congratulate me."



ABOVE: Glenda Howells in Salvation Army uniform.

"When I received the letter, I was speechless."

She said that, having been brought up in a Christian home, joining the Salvation Army at 16 was a natural decision, and that she believed strongly in the work that they did.

She said: "There have been many changes in Maesteg during my time with the Salvation Army, but the nature of the good work stays the same."

"There has always been a wonderful spirit in Maesteg. It is still the same great place."

Her friends are all clearly delighted with the news, but Glenda is not the sort of person who is comfortable talking about her own achievements.

She reflected: "I have found the whole experience very humbling."

OBITUARY Mr Ian Murray, Porthcawl

Sad death of local transport campaigner

IT IS with a feeling of great sorrow that members of 'Porthcawl SHOUT' will receive the news that their friend and transport expert, Ian Murray, passed away during their Christmas recess.



Mr Ian Murray.

South-east and south-west transport consortium.

He was also a valued member of the regional and national Bus Users Committee.

He covered the railways through his attendance at Arriva Trains area meetings, as well as Great Western local and regional meetings.

It was fitting that he was a specially-invited guest to travel on the first train to use the much-publicised Ebbw Vale line.

All this was accomplished at his own

cost, for the benefit of others.

Ian was always fighting the cause of older people and was regularly found at the forefront of protest if a facility was changed – such as the unacceptable withdrawal of the 224 direct service from Porthcawl to Port Talbot.

Wouldn't it be a nice epitaph if First Cymru were to reinstate this service, even at this late stage?

Ian Murray will long be remembered for his dedicated attention to detail on behalf of Porthcawl SHOUT.

He will be missed, but not forgotten by his friends and colleagues.

A service of remembrance will take place at Gilgal Church, Porthcawl, where he was a member, on Thursday, January 13, at 2.15pm.

CLIVE MORT, information officer, Porthcawl SHOUT

New year honours joy for local people

Maesteg's Salvation Army stalwart Glenda receives MBE

MBE for Samaritan who became the face of Bridgend during suicide media blitz

THE director of the Bridgend branch of the Samaritans from 2007 to 2010, Darren Matthews, received an MBE in the New Year's honours list.

His three-year term as head of the local branch included the period when Bridgend was in the headlines as "the suicide capital of Europe" – and the award, he felt, was clearly to acknowledge the work that he and fellow volunteers did during an intense period.

Mr Matthews' term as director finished last summer, and he is just coming to the end of Samaritans' compulsory six-month sabbatical – something all directors are required to take.

He is now planning to return to the Bridgend branch as a volunteer and he spoke to The GEM about his award.

He said: "I received the letter at the end of November and it was really a shock. I couldn't believe it and it was difficult keeping quiet about it."

by PHILIP IRWIN

"However, now that it has been announced, I have been amazed at the reaction from friends and from work."

"Everyone has been talking about it and getting in touch."

He stressed: "I am sure that the MBE is intended to recognise all the work that people did in a voluntary capacity during the Bridgend suicides – and since then as well."

"So many people gave up their time to try and help."

The six-month sabbatical has meant that Darren has had time to reflect on the Bridgend suicides, and the lessons that have been learned.

The world-wide media firestorm that descended on Bridgend is long gone, but he feels there is still much to do.

He said: "The tone of reporting suicides in Bridgend has changed, and I hope that is a lesson for the media throughout the UK."



Darren Matthews on Samaritans duty at a local event.

"However, it is still important to report these tragedies, otherwise there is a danger that they will be forgotten."

He pointed out that the events had led to the Welsh Assembly putting in place a strategy to reduce the number of suicides.

He added that when he returns to the Bridgend branch, he was hoping to do more outreach work, as trying to make contact with the most vulnerable groups – still headed by young men from 16 to 34 – is vital to tackling the problem.

Regeneration FoI request is refused

A SERIES of questions submitted by a Porthcawl organisation to Bridgend County Borough Council (CBC) seeking information about land holdings within the Porthcawl regeneration area, has been refused – despite being made under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Porthcawl Civic Trust, acting through one of its members, asked for information about the land holdings of both the council and the Evans Families.

Both parties are due to sign an agreement which will enable the regeneration to begin. This agreement will split the profits of the regeneration scheme 60-40 to the council.

However, the civic trust, the chamber of trade and Porthcawl SHOUT challenged the way in which the profits were to be divided, and asked The Wales Audit Office to investigate.

The GEM has also asked the council for a break down of how the 93 acres within the regeneration area divides up between the two parties. The Evans families lease some of the land involved.

by JAYNE ISAAC

The GEM also been refused this information on the grounds that it is commercially sensitive until the agreement is signed.

In her reply to the FoI request, the council's FoI officer, Christine John, said that information about the council's and the Evans' land holdings were available from the Land Registry.

As a result, the request was refused because the information is available elsewhere.

A request for information about the land leased by the Evans' has also been refused because it is exempt from the Act, as it would disclose commercially sensitive information.

A second series of questions was also put to the council on behalf of the Porthcawl Civic Society.

BCBC was asked if the quarterly rent on Salt Lake car park had been paid in compliance with the lease.

The council replied that the rent had been paid but then refused to disclose who was leasing the land and who had been paying the rent, on the grounds that it would constitute disclosure of commercially sensitive information.

A spokesman for the civic trust said that the two responses were examples of "wilful obstructiveness" by BCBC, especially as Salt Lake was land acquired by the old Porthcawl UDC, and subsequently inherited by Ogwr and later BCBC.

The spokesman said that they had only asked for company names and not the names of individuals and could not understand how this would prejudice the commercial interests of any person.

The society has challenged these rulings in a letter to BCBC on the grounds that quoting commercial confidentiality is not a valid reason for refusal in this case.

If BCBC again refuses, the society can appeal to the Information Commissioner.

The spokesman added that the council must have all the relevant acreages of the land it owns easily to hand because of the need to get up-to-date valuations carried out.

It was publicly-owned land and the public has the right to know without having to go through the complicated procedures of applying to the Land Registry, which will require relevant map references and other information to pin-point the land in question.

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COUNCIL CABINET VOTES TO EXTEND THE PILOT SCHEME

Street lights to go part time...

BRIDGEND'S cabinet has decided to extend a pilot scheme to switch off up to half of all street lights in part of the borough after midnight.

The cabinet received a report on the trials to dim or switch off some street lights in a bid to reduce energy consumption and costs.

Members were told that there has been a steady increase in both the quality and quantity of street lights and the cost has been thrown into focus by the steep rise in energy costs in recent years.

In the past, the generators supplied relatively low cost energy to this unmetered sector which usually uses off-peak supplies.

Until 2005, the cost of street lighting was £351,000 a year for the 17,000 lights in the borough, however costs increased to £826,000 for 2009-10, equating to an average annual increase of 27 per cent.

The pilot schemes were in Cefn Glas, where lights were dimmed to 60 per cent of their usual brightness from midnight until 5.30am; and in Coychurch, which includes Bridgend Industrial estate, where every other light was switched off at night.

The pilot schemes started last December and no complaints or adverse comments have been received from the public, community councils or the emergency services. Also, there have been no reports of any problems with road safety, pedestrian safety or community safety and crime.

The report states that if the pilot schemes are to be extended, consideration will have to be given to ensure that lighting levels remain adequate for CCTV cameras to operate.

Cabinet members heard that the cost of converting the street lights were higher than originally anticipated because of increases in the price of components and the complexity and extent of the work required.

The cost of converting street lights to operate part time at night worked out at £28 per unit if the work was straightforward but an average of £49 if it was more complex.

The dimming of street lights turned out to be more complex and problem-

by JAYNE ISAAC

atic and cost more than £200 per unit. The cost of converting lights for dimming was a total of £105,000 against an annual energy saving of £6,898. Converting the lights to switch off at night cost £7,650, against an annual saving of £4,000.

It would cost more than £2.4m to dim all the lights in the borough and that would save £230,000 a year in energy.

Converting a third of street lights to part-night would cost £322,000 and save £140,420 a year.

Officers recommended going for the option of switching off lights at night, rather than dimming because of the high cost of conversion for dimming.

The cabinet heard that £155,000 is available in the new financial year to carry out conversion work and that the scheme will be rolled out to most areas south of the M4 initially.

Those areas where selected lights will be switched off from midnight to 5.30am include:

The Industrial estates at Village Farm, Pyle; Brackla and Litchard; Brynmenyn, Penllwyngwent, Ogmere Vale; Forge site and Heol Ty Gwyn, Maesteg and the Science Park in Bridgend.

Residential areas - the following council wards: All of Porthcawl, Pyle, Cornelly, Laleston and Bryntirion; Brackla, Litchard, Oldcastle, Bridgend and Morfa.

In Pencoed, all three wards will be affected as well as Betws, Llangenor and Llangynwyd.

The Sarn, Bryncethin and Aberkenfig areas will not be included and neither will the three upper valley areas of Maesteg, Garw and Ogmere.

The total cost of extending the switch off to the whole borough is £322,000 and money will be found to include the rest of the borough in future years.

It is estimated that the authority will save £50,000 on energy costs next year, with savings of £90,000 the year after.

The cabinet has agreed to switch off every other street light in those areas approved, subject to highway safety and security considerations.

THE MINI BEAST HOTEL OPENS IN PENCOED FOR FOREST DWELLERS!



A new 'hotel' offering free accommodation for forest dwellers has just opened at Rockwool Woodlands for Learning Centre in Pencoed.

Local schoolchildren helped Forestry Commission Wales education officers Geminie Drinkwater and Carol Travers to build the Mini Beast hotel out of recycled pallets, straw and a variety of natural tubes.

"It may not seem like much but, for the variety of minibeasts living in the woodland, the hotel is the height of luxury," said spokesman Clive Davies.

The hotel, which was formally opened by Forestry Commission Wales Director Trefor Owen, will

be added to by school groups who visit the woodland as part of the FC Wales Woodlands for Learning (WFL) team's ongoing education programme.

Geminie explained:

"The minibeasts of Rockwool will soon be living the high life!"

"The aim is to involve as many children as possible in creating small habitat 'pockets' within the bug hotel for minibeasts from the surrounding woodlands."

"The hotel will help the children to learn about the importance of minibeasts and of their own responsibility in the conservation of the different species."

LEFT: FC Wales Director Trefor Owen opens the Mini Beast Hotel, watched by education officer Carol Travers.

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Porthcawl museum gets a new exhibit



LEFT: Audrey and John David.

AT a recent meeting of the Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society, member Keith E Morgan, presented two vintage plates to the museum.

The two plates, which depict St John's Church, Newton, were produced by Mercian China of Burton-upon-Trent, a firm which is no longer in existence.

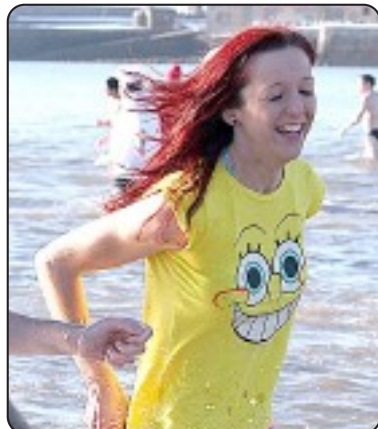
Newton Church is depicted on the front of both plates, and a short history of the church is given on the reverse.

The two vintage plates were received on behalf of Porthcawl Museum by Audrey and John David. John is the president of the Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society.



The two vintage plates.

CHRISTMAS SWIMMERS DEFY THE SNOW TO DIVE INTO PORTHCAWL'S SHIVERING SEAS



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

*Other pictures are
available from this event.*

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SNOW on the beach did not deter the brave swimmers at Porthcawl's 46th Christmas Morning Swim.

With snow still standing above the high water line and in bright winter sun, more than 606 registered swimmers took the traditional Christmas morning dip in the sea at Sandy Bay, Porthcawl, while an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 spectators cheered them on.

Porthcawl Coastguards signaled the start and cleared a path down the crowded beach for the swimmers.

The procession was led from the Hi-Tide Inn to the beach by Mayor, Coun Mary Emmment-Lewis and her consort Bobbie, who both went into the sea.

They were joined by Victor Davies and Chris Hughes each with 40-plus swims to their name. Swimmers from all over the UK took part, and among the regular entrants was veteran swimmer Ken James of Ogmere Vale – the oldest entrant at 84 and with 32 previous Christmas swims to his credit.

At the other end of the age spectrum there were many young children and their parents taking part. Collections were made during carol singing and during the swim itself.

Coming all the way from Ruislip in Middlesex to take part was the brother of the landlord of The Ancient Briton, Rick Newman. His 12-year-old daughter Lucy also braved the waters and the pair have raised £700 so far.

The spokesperson for the swim committee, Ian Stroud, said: "Once again we have been grateful to all who supported our swim and the number of people who turned up was fantastic, considering the freezing conditions. I checked my garden thermometer at 9am and it showed minus 10C.

"I was concerned about what effect the cold would have on our numbers, with many events cancelled this year due to snow and ice, but the number of swimmers far exceeded our expectations."

Chairman, Nicola Willis commented: "As a small committee we are delighted the way we have been supported once again this year.

"I would like to thank all swimmers, spectators, individuals, businesses and organisations who help in so many ways to make the swim such a successful event in the town's calendar."



Blue skies but freezing temperatures as local swimmers 'enjoy' Porthcawl's Christmas dip

Christmas Swim photos on this page are by MANDY THOMAS (Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347) These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk



Above (left to right): Ken James, Victor Davies, and Chris Hughes – more than 112 Christmas swims between them!



No matter what the costume that you choose for the Christmas swim – whether it be running kit, bikinis, or Santa outfits – you can't escape the cold!



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'CHRISTMASS' LUNCH BRINGS CHURCH FAMILY TOGETHER



ABOVE: The All Saints' catering team made up of Maggie, Angharad, Bethan, Elen, Ffion, Cathrin, Sian, David, Father Jonathan and Canon Philip Masson.



REPORT by KEITH E MORGAN

THIS year, The Parish of Newton Nottage held a 'Christmass' lunch in All Saints' Hall, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl.

The catering was carried out by Maggie Masson, the Rector's wife, assisted by family and friends, and of course, the Rector Canon Philip Masson.

Approximately 50 people attended the lunch, which turned out to be a "big family get together" – and a Christmas party.

There was, of course, a charge for

the 15-course lunch, which was intended to be non profit-making, but there was a small residue and this was given to LATCH, the children's cancer charity.

Among those attending the lunch were Stewart and Alistair Durley from Jersey in the Channel Islands. They are father and brother respectively to Father Jonathan Durley, the new Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Kenfig Hill, with whom they were staying for Christmas.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

New clerk

FOLLOWING the resignation of the Pyle Community Council Clerk last month, Pyle Community Council has filled the vacancy, with the appointment of Mr Harold Phillips as the new clerk to the council (See picture above, right).

Mr Phillips, who took up his position on Tuesday, is a well known and respected member of the community, a church warden at St Coleman's Church, Cefn Cribwr and has been a member of the Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir for the past 20 years – with the last 12 as chair.

Society talk

THE next meeting of the Kenfig Society will see Terry Robbins talk

about the Brogden family – a subject of particular interest to local people, as this family were very active in creating the modern town of Porthcawl.

Everyone is welcome to the meeting in Pyle Life Centre, Pyle on Tuesday, January 18 at 7.30pm.

For further details of this and other events being planned by the Kenfig Society, telephone Terry on 01656 782351.

Tree festival

THE Christmas tree festival held at St Theodore's Church was again a success, with over £100 being raised for 'Help the Heroes' fund and in excess of £300 was raised for the homeless and church funds.



ABOVE: Lending a hand with the washing up were (left to right): Sandra Townsend, Coun Mary Emmett-Lewis, Andrew Singer, Liz Singer and Jacqueline Bate.



ABOVE: Eileen Peakman (interim clerk), Harold Phillips (new clerk to Pyle Community Council) and Paula James (chair).

With the postponed concert still to take place, it is hoped that this amount will increase.

Computers
THE computer classes held at the Pyle Life Centre are offering an 'Introduction to Spreadsheets' course, using Microsoft Excel.

Starting on January 26 it will be held on Wednesday evenings in the Life Centre, between 7pm-9pm and will last for eight weeks. For more information, telephone 07968 092854.

Youth choir

THE new youth choir called 'crescendo' was the brainchild of Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir musical director, Phil Juliff,

who observed the lack of such a choir between Cardiff and Swansea.

Phil put the idea to the committee of Kenfig Hill & District Choir who readily agreed that the new choir could have access to the choral suite and its facilities at the Green Ace, and also to act as a parent body for administration and guidance.

Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir see this as part of the first article of its constitution, which is,

"to promote and perform choral music" and to provide a positive and worthwhile hobby for the youth in their area. The choir got off to a shaky start in August, with only two girls attending for the first

two weeks but has grown steadily and now has 18 members. The name 'crescendo', with the lower case c, was the choice of its members.

The first performance was in The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, after only a few weeks rehearsal and following the success there and in the Pysgah Chapel, it is hoped that 'crescendo' will attract many new members this year.

New members between the ages of 14-25 are welcome to come along on any Thursday evening when 'crescendo' meet from 5.30pm-6.30pm in the choral suite, The Green Ace Motel, North Cornelly.

For further details, email: pj.juliff@btopenworld.com

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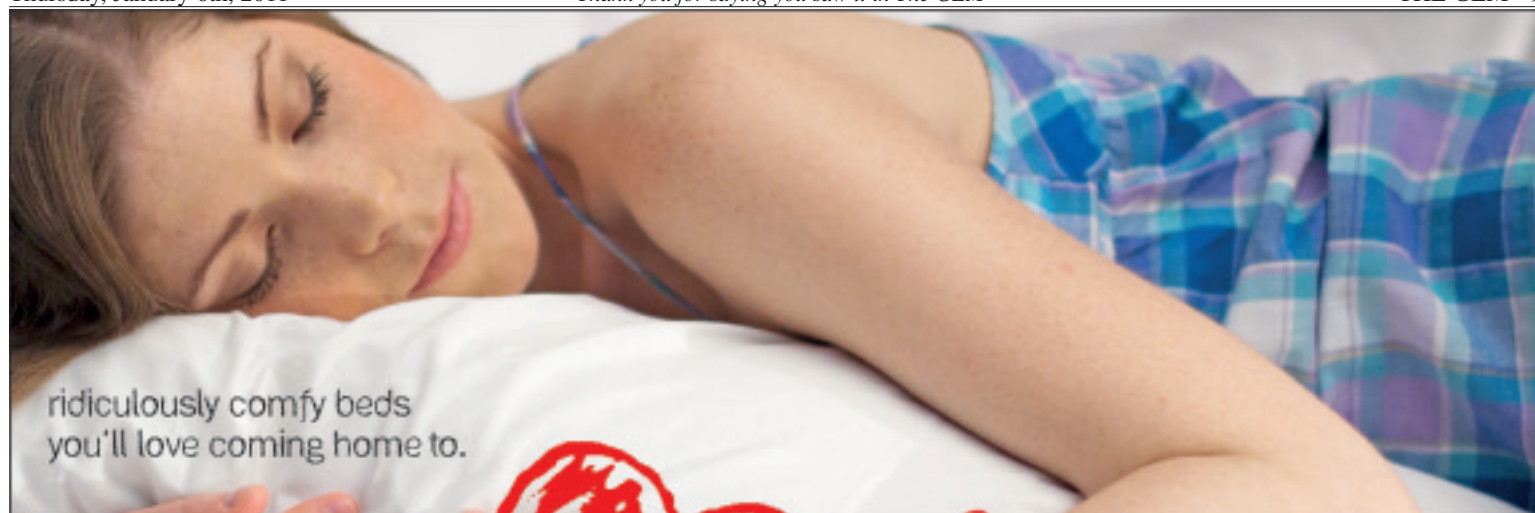
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CALLING PORTHCAWL READERS – Are you in the picture?



THIS photograph was taken somewhere in Porthcawl during the Queen's Jubilee celebrations on a street of terraced houses, one of which was named 'Colston House'. If you are in the picture, can you identify yourself, the street, the occasion and the date? Please contact Keith E Morgan on 01656 788150, if you have any information regarding the photograph.

Thank you

I would like to thank the members of the Tondur Art Society who designed, made and sent me a special Christmas card: it was really appreciated, thank you again.

ME support

I WOULD advise anyone who may be suffering from ME that a support charity holds regular meetings in the Ararat Centre for the Community, Plas Treoda, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 1PT, on Tuesdays between 2.30pm-4pm.

The centre has parking facilities and disabled persons access. If anyone requires reassurance or advice, please telephone Chris on 02920 762347.

Golden concert

BRIDGEND Male Choir (Cor Meibion Penybont) is celebrating its golden anniversary this year and will be hosting a celebratory concert at the same venue where it held its first-ever concert in November 1960, Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer, on January 15 at 7pm.

The choir will be performing songs made popular by its long-serving musical directors, the late Aldwyn and Gwynfor Humphreys and, of course, present musical director, John Jenkins.

Trumpet soloist Meirion Davies, partner of the choir's piano

accompanist, Laura Smith, will also feature along with two primary school choirs, Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Garw and Ffaldau.

I recently heard Ffaldau sing in the British Legion poppy day appeal concert and they were magnificent. The compère for the evening will be BBC newsreader and presenter of the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall last Saturday, Huw Edwards, whose mother came from Pontycymer. He is patron of Bridgend male choir.

All proceeds from the concert will go to Cancer Research Wales, the choir's adopted cause. Co-incidentally, Huw Edwards is also a patron.

Tickets cost £5 and can be obtained from Blaengarw and Pontycymer post offices; Tabernacle chapel, or by telephoning Gareth on 07773 170373.

Singer contest

THE Bridgend 'Young Singer of the Year' final competition, which has some of the most talented singers from Bridgend county borough, will take place on Saturday, January 29, at 7pm in Maesteg Town Hall.

It is sponsored by Dunraven Windows and organised by the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir.

The junior section finalists are as follows:

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Lauren Coates (Bryntirion Comprehensive School), Connie Osgood Finney (Archbishop McGrath Catholic Secondary School), Rhydian Jenkins (Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd), Amy Leigh Thomas (Maesteg Comprehensive School).

The senior section finalists are as follows: Sophie Howe (Porthcawl Comprehensive School), Lowri Izard (Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari), Mari Izard (Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari), Amelia Jones (Porthcawl Comprehensive School), Joe Wiltshire-Smith (Porthcawl Comprehensive School), Gemma Thomas (Brynreg Comprehensive School), Catherine Walters (Porthcawl Comprehensive School).

The winner of each section will receive The Bryan Davies Trophy and a prize to the value of £500, made up as follows – £100 personal cheque and a voucher for £400 to further music education within his/her school along with a personal trophy.

Runners-up in each category will receive a personal prize of £50 and a voucher for £50 to further music education within his/her school along with a personal trophy.

Festive lunches

THE members of Aberkenfig Retired Persons Club enjoyed a couple of Christmas lunches before the big day.

The first took place at the Greenacres Motel, Connelly, and was free to all members.

The club praised Alan, the driver of a specially-converted bus supplied by the OTED com-

pany, which called at the homes of members who are disabled, to ensure they were able to attend the function.

The remainder of the members and friends journeyed in another coach.

After the meal, entertainment was provided by vocalist Paul Christie. During the interval, members enjoyed games of bingo. Afterwards, Paul led community singing.

The members also enjoyed a splendid Christmas dinner, provided by the Front Line Bible church in Aberkenfig.

Entertainment was provided and also community singing. There was a big surprise when the choir of Tondur Primary School, accompanied by headteacher Sue Pilsher and teachers, regaled the diners with Christmas carols.

Mrs Joyce Haynes, chairlady of the club, thanked everyone, but specifically the Pastor John Kingdon and his wife Joy, for arranging the community event.

Members of the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir will be pleased to read about this, as they put on a concert in the church last September to help raise funds, so that dining facilities could remain open.

The club meets at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy every Wednesday afternoon between 2pm-4pm.

New members are welcome. Information from Joyce/Tom on 01656 720823 or 01656 720026.

Carol concert

THE carol concert at Tondur Wesley Methodist Church was

a great success, starting with the congregation singing 'The Holly and the Ivy'.

This was followed by the church choir singing 'Two Thousand Years Ago' and 'Christians make a Joyful Sound'.

The congregation joined in singing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'.

Then the stars of the evening came on, namely the choir of Tondur Primary School, singing the carols 'There isn't any room' and 'Winds through the olive trees'.

The church choir performed six more carols and then the magnificent school choir sang four. These youngsters are amazing in the way they remember the music and words, never making a noticeable mistake.

Members of the church thanked the school choir, headteacher Sue Pilsher and Miss Handley, the choir's conductor, for so willingly giving up their free time in supporting the event; and also the parents who support their children and ferry them everywhere.

Pupil's prize

TONDUR Primary School headteacher Mrs Sue Pilsher, has congratulated Luka Wood, a pupil in year-1, who won the Newcastle Higher Community Council Christmas card competition and was recently presented with his well-earned prize.

The competition is open to all pupils at schools in the council's area, and is very competitive.

Copies of the winning card are published by the council and will be sent to the responsible adults of pupils at the school.



Included in the picture are Miss Handley, choir conductor (in red coat) and Mrs Sue Pilsher, second from the right.

Condolences

I would like to offer my condolences to the family and friends of two popular members of Cor Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley Male Choir) who passed away during Christmas week.

They were Tom Jones from Pontycymer and John Gardener, originally from Llangenor, who lived in Bryncethin.

They will be truly missed by fellow choristers.

The choir welcomes visitors and new members on any rehearsal evening at Pontycymer Rugby Football Club in the upstairs concert room on Mondays and Wednesdays between 7pm and 8.30pm.



Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute's Christmas tree, with all decorations handcrafted by members.

Porthcawl RNLI and police search for missing man

A MISSING man prompted a full-scale search at Newton, Porthcawl, on Monday, January 3, involving the RNLI lifeboat.

Police also took part in the search on foot and a police helicopter also scoured the sand dunes.

Spokesman Ian Stroud reported: "Porthcawl Lifeboat Rose of the Shires was launched at 11.27am to search the area between Newton Point and the River Ognore.

"The search was hampered by poor visibility, due to snow showers in the area. Porthcawl Coastguards were joined by a unit from Port Talbot, who also assisted in a beach search.

"It is understood that the male was located safe and well later."

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'Banks must help meet deficit, but we mustn't drive them out of UK'



**Vale MP
Alun Cairns**
reports to
GEM readers

THIS is a great opportunity to wish GEM readers a happy and successful New Year.

It is interesting to note that many predictions are made at this time of year about the 12 months ahead; on the lighter side – from astrologists in daily newspapers to Old Moore's Almanac and then to the more serious, established economists, business and political leaders.

Focussing on the more serious predictions, it is obvious that 2011 will be an extremely challenging year for the nation financially.

We are still paying almost £120million per day in interest on the nation's debt – and that is without reducing the country's borrowing in any way!

This is an astronomical level and this year we will pay more in interest on the debt than we will spend on the UK's education system.

Failing to take the necessary actions and not cutting back would only make matters worse.

At the very least, it would mean even deeper cut-backs in the future – or even worse, the downgrading of the country's credit rating, which would make it more difficult for the nation to finance its needs.

HIGHER CHARGES

This would lead to even higher charges on our debts and ultimately could lead to a government failing to pay its dues.

We've seen this partly in Ireland and Greece and are told that Spain and Portugal could follow suit.

The cut-backs they have experienced will be much harsher than ours.

There is a tendency to blame the banks. Certainly, they need to accept their responsibility.

However, I think that the last government, who were responsible for regulating the banks, need to accept their role in allowing the nation to be exposed in such a way.

REPAYING THE DEBT

Therefore, banks do need to help repay the debt through additional levies.

It is also fair to note that simply taxing them to a level where they would be uncompetitive or to drive some of the best business brains to Switzerland, would not be in the nation's interest.

For those reasons, I am absolutely certain that as so many predict a tough year ahead, we all have our part to play, including bankers.

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BANK STAFF STEP BACK IN TIME FOR THEIR 175TH BIRTHDAY IN BRIDGEND



WITH Bridgend branch staff decked out in period costumes, former chief cashier Colin Evans got the NatWest 175th anniversary celebrations under way at Adare Street by cutting a giant cake in the shape of a cheque.

Colin, who has always lived in the town, worked at NatWest from 1970 until 1994.

Throughout the week, staff accepted donations for the Welsh Air Ambulance. A raffle was held to boost the funds, with prizes including a Victorian hamper donated by Abbey and Stuart Vaughan of Home and Colonial, Porthcawl. The team raised £200 during the week.

NatWest's Bridgend branch opened in 1835 as the National Provincial Bank of England, which

had around 20 branches across the UK at the time.

In 1918, it merged with Union of London & Smith's Bank to form one of the emerging 'big five' High Street banks.

From 1924, the bank became known as National Provincial Bank. A merger with Westminster Bank followed in 1970, after which the branch began to trade under the name National Westminster Bank, more commonly known as NatWest.

Branch manager Paula Evans said: "As a bank we are always looking forward, making sure that we move with the times in terms of what our customers want from us. That said, I think it's also very important to mark these milestones that remind us just how long we've been providing a service to our local community.

"We are fortunate to



have some wonderfully supportive customers who bank with us in Bridgend and we're delighted that so many of them popped in to the branch to help us celebrate our 175th birthday."



Bridgend charity group starts its work on giant mosaic at gardens



Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)
These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk



A BRIDGEND charity is taking part in a project to create a giant mosaic which will be displayed at the National Botanical Gardens of Wales.

The artist who is co-ordinating the project, Pod Clare, came to Bridgend and spent the day at the offices of Scope – and said later that Bridgend had given it a flying start.

The plan is to visit groups throughout Wales, with each contributing to the giant final mosaic.

Pod told The GEM: "It was brilliant this morning, what a great crowd of people, and they did work of such a good standard. It got the project off to a great start!"

Festive tea for the elderly

SOROPTIMIST International Bridgend Club's bi-monthly Contact the Elderly tea parties, held in members' homes, have proved to be very popular.

Joyce Chatterton was the organiser, along with two of the guests at the recent Christmas tea party.

The Bridgend Club has recently been involved in filling shoeboxes with gifts for children to be delivered through Samaritan's Purse; and with all 23 clubs in south Wales in raising funds to help eradicate Lassa Fever in Sierra Leone.

Anyone interested in learning more should telephone 01656 654418.

Sunday special from local youth theatre

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Bridgend Youth Theatre and Dance are returning to Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl with two Christmas performances on Sunday, January 9.

At 2pm, the junior members perform 'Festive Favourites,' a celebration of song and dance from some of the best loved Christmas stories ever, including songs from 'Muppet's Christmas Carol', 'Scrooge', 'Elf', 'Santa Claus is Coming to



Town' and a dance based on 'The Snow Queen'.

At 7.30pm, 'The Christmas Casting' features senior members and 11-14 year groups. The talented young performers will take on the role of wannabe stars desperate to impress a judge's panel.

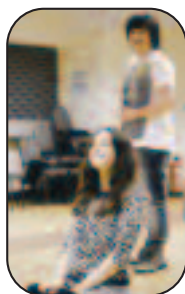
With a creative dance performance of 'Celestial - The Cold Earth Slept Below,' and songs ranging from

LEFT: Tash Bryant and Joe Wiltshire Smith.

ABOVE: James Gillard and Senior members.

'Chicago' to Cheryl Cole numbers, this performance is sure to have something for everyone.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Arts and Community Development, tickets are available from the Grand Pavilion box office on 01656 815995 or by booking online at www.grandpavilion.co.uk



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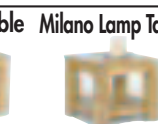


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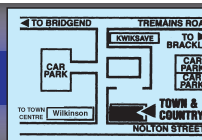


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Council battles with its black bag backlog...

MOUNDS of black bags have been left around Bridgend borough over the holiday period following the cancellation of refuse and recycling collections in Christmas week as a result of the snow and ice.

Although the weather improved last week, collections were only made in those areas already due to be visited by refuse and recycling lorries.

Other areas, which should have been collected the week before, were left to wait until this week and Caerau and Nantyllyn were two areas affected.

Coun Steve Smith, who represents the Caerau-Nantyllyn ward, said that people now have a month of rubbish accumulated outside their homes.

He said: "There are mountains of black bags lying about in communal areas where people put their bags out."

"There is rubbish spilling out onto the roads and pavements because the bags have been ripped open by animals. The place is looking terrible."

by JAYNE ISAAC

Coun Smith said he understood why the council had cancelled the collections before Christmas, but he thought that extra collections would have been laid on to pick up the backlog of rubbish lying about the streets.

However, a council spokesman said that people were told when the collections were cancelled that they should put their rubbish out on their next normal collection day.

He said that there was no spare capacity in the system to lay on staff or lorries to do extra rounds, and employees had been fully committed to collecting rubbish on their normal rounds.

The statement went on: "Recycling and refuse collections had to be temporarily postponed because of a number of dangers which included trying to safely manoeuvre collection vehicles, that can weigh up to 20 tonnes, in icy conditions, often on steep slopes or in narrow streets where available space had been restricted by parked cars and accumulated snow."

"Collectors also had to

lift containers while negotiating icy roads and footpaths."

The spokesman said that the council was doing everything it could to clear the backlog of both recycling and refuse.

"Now that conditions have improved, collections have resumed as normal and we are advising local people to store their recycling and black bag waste until their next regular collection date."

The council and its waste operator May Gurney have thanked residents for their ongoing co-operation and patience as the backlog is cleared.

GEM NOTE: Christmas wrapping paper should not be included in the recycling collection but put into black bags.

A council spokesman said that the dyes in the paper caused problems and often there was sticky tape, cards and ribbons wrapped up within the paper.

However, he said that by next Christmas, the council hoped to have solved the problems, and people would be able to place it with the rest of their paper to be recycled.

BCBC to charge for citizenship ceremony costs

PEOPLE who become British citizens while living in Bridgend can request an individual citizenship ceremony.

Bridgend's cabinet has agreed to make these ceremonies available at a cost of £75 per person.

At the moment, the council stages group ceremonies for applicants, and these take place about every eight to 10 weeks in the council chamber.

The Superintendent Registrar conducts the ceremonies, following which the new citizens receive their certificates of British citizenship.

The cost of these ceremonies is met by the Home Office, which pays a fee from the charge imposed on the prospective citizen when they apply.

But the council is being increasingly asked to provide individual ceremonies for people who want their certificates before the date of the next group ceremony, or who wish to

have a private ceremony.

These have been arranged at no extra charge, but as these ceremonies have taken place in the marriage room, this could result in a loss of revenue to the council.

The cabinet has agreed that from now on, all prospective citizens will be offered the option to have an individual ceremony at a cost of £75. The council is able to make a charge, provided it does not make a profit from the process.

REGENERATION IN PORTHCAWL: BCBC replies to The GEM

THE GEM has received a reply from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) following queries we submitted about the Porthcawl Regeneration Forum.

There was a row at the last forum meeting in December when three members of the public, including Porthcawl town councillor Sean Aspy, turned up.

After a vote, the meeting decided to exclude them from proceedings,

although a member of the press was allowed to remain.

The GEM asked how the press could remain when the public were excluded as usually, the press has no special privileges. When a council decides to go 'into committee', everyone who is not a councillor or officer has to leave, including the press.

In a statement, the council says that the terms of reference for the forum state that meetings are not open to the public, although the media is able to attend.

The issue of whether

or not the three members of the public could remain was discussed with forum members, who consist of representatives of community groups.

They decided to refuse permission because the meeting had not been advertised as being public and it would not be fair to others who might also have wished to attend.

The council is now to meet the individuals who turned up, who include Graham Walter and John Howley of a Facebook group called the Porthcawl Regeneration Open Discussion group, which is campaigning for more openness in the regeneration process.

They will discuss the concerns felt by these individuals to see if they should be invited to join the forum as community representatives.

The statement added that no notification of forum meetings are sent to the press, although journalists can attend if they wish.

BCBC has said it will provide such details if requested, but forum members can also invite the press to attend, which has already happened.

The GEM has now lodged a formal request to receive notification of all forum meetings in future. **Jayne Isaac**

Committee warns about children's budget cuts

OFFICERS in the Children's Directorate in Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have been warned against reducing money in a budget designed to keep children living at home - rather than going into care.

The budget research and evaluation panel of the Children and Young People's scrutiny committee has come out against a proposal in the council's draft budget to cut £35,000 for this work - which is aimed at

reducing the chances of a child being taken into care. This budget provides emergency financial support to families in a bid to keep them together.

The panel has queried the sustainability of this proposal in the face of increasing pressures, with rising numbers of looked-after children.

The panel felt that any money saved here would be counter-productive, if it led to more children going into care because of a family break-down.

The cost of taking children into care is far

greater than that involved in helping them stay together.

Their comments were due to be discussed yesterday (Wednesday) at the meeting of the committee.

At the moment, all the proposals in the draft budget are being scrutinised by committees and will then go back to cabinet with suggested alterations.

The final budget will then be reported to the full council for approval in time for the new financial year starting in April 2011.

Read your GEM online - visit bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

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KiddieWinkles (and adults!) dress up for nativity concert



THE staff at KiddieWinkles' were all encouraged to dress as angels for the nativity concert recently.

Pictured (above left to right) are Alison, Sharon, Hollie, Abbie, Jayne, Karen, Andrea and Tracy.



ABOVE: Nativity time for the little ones!

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Kings Monkton is 'happy, caring and supportive'

IT is essential that education enables young people to secure the greatest possible success and fulfilment in academic and other areas.

Kings Monkton School has had a strong track record in this respect since its foundation more than 140 years ago.

At Kings Monkton we believe that such success can best be achieved when young people are given the opportunity to play to their strengths, rather than being forced into a mould. We want our pupils to be happy, because happiness breeds success – school should be enjoyable, as well as challenging!

A happy, caring and supportive atmosphere pervades the school where we endeavour to know each pupil well. It is imperative that parents and staff can work together to encourage and nurture children at every stage of their education, while also laying firm foundations for independence in later life.

We also teach the importance of participating fully in the community. This begins with the school community itself where we believe in inclusivity – not exclusivity.

Our city centre location gives us a unique opportunity to take advantage of the many experiences the city of Cardiff provides for enrichment in our national culture and heritage.

At the same time, our involvement with CIBT Education Trust enables us to incorporate a very special, global perspective into our curriculum.

**See more
training and
education
opportunities
on page 18.**

Kings Monkton offers a number of scholarships each year, worth up to 50 per cent of school fees in the following categories: Academic; art; music and sport

These are available at 7+, 11+, 13+ and 16+ for entry in September.

For further information on scholarships or to arrange an informal visit, please contact the school office.

Kings Monkton School

Co-educational Independent Education, from 2 to 18 years



**Scholarship and Entrance Testing,
28th & 29th January 2011**

At Kings Monkton, we strive to provide a happy, caring and supportive environment in which all pupils are encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability. **Nick Dorey, Principal**

"...we appreciate the influence Kings Monkton School has had on our son's development. The influence of his teachers and others in the school is obvious and he leaves as a confident, hard-working young man with a great appetite for life. Once again, thank you for all your support." **Parent of former pupil.**



Please contact the school office for an information pack or to arrange an informal visit.

Tel: 029 2048 2854
www.kingsmonkton.org.uk
6 West Grove, Cardiff, CF24 3XL



EDUCATION & TRAINING

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Make a positive start in 2011 with help from Careers Wales

IT'S that time of year again when many of us decide to take a fresh look at life and make some resolutions about the future.

If your resolution is about improving your career prospects, don't forget about the free advice you can get from Careers Wales.

You may be thinking about gaining new skills to land the job you want or be better in the one you have. Look no further. Careers Wales has free information about careers, courses and training, whatever your age.

Thinking about your career can be a daunting prospect, especially in this difficult economic climate – but whether you're in a job, facing redundancy or unemployed, careful planning can help you make the most of opportunities that are available.

When Marion

Dellimore was made redundant in 2006, as a result of the closure of the Dan Evans department store in Barry, she decided to call at the Careers Centre in the town to discuss alternatives.

"I'd been working for nearly 20 years as a sales assistant," Marion explained, "and although I wasn't really sure what options were open to me, I knew I had to update my skills."

Following a discussion with careers adviser, Barbara Price, she decided a good starting point would be to improve her computer skills. Barbara referred Marion to local training provider The People Business-Wales Ltd where she gained qualifications in information technology and key skills.

At the same time, Marion started working on a voluntary basis with some of the young people who were also undertaking vocational

training there.

Marion did so well that she was offered work as a tutor with The People Business-Wales Ltd. After obtaining further qualifications and experience in 2009, she was appointed placements and progressions officer.

Marion said: "Visiting the Careers Centre started me on a completely new career path which I really enjoy. I now interview adults and young people and help them find suitable work placements which I find very rewarding work."

For more information about how Careers Wales can help you, call our Learning and Careers Advice helpline 0800 100 900 (if calling from a mobile please ring 029 2090 6801 - standard mobile rates apply) or email lca@careerswales.com

Advisers can also out you in touch with your local careers centre if you wish to make an appointment.



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www.gyrfacymru.com
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Seal courses will meet business training needs

IN these tough economic times, businesses need to utilise all their strengths to stay competitive and the greatest asset any company has is the workforce.

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Seal Enterprises has a long history of providing training programmes to the public, private and voluntary sectors with outstanding results.

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For more information, contact us on 01633 667833.

Yes! Get That Job and Start Your Career

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- ✓ Add value to your CV and stand out from the crowd with our leading 1 day courses that produce results.
- ✓ Acquire the key skills that the majority of employers are looking for and apply for jobs with confidence by gaining the industry certificates that are required for that particular job.
- ✓ After training we help you by working alongside leading recruitment agencies, to ensure that your new skills sets are put forward for current available jobs.



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- Project Management

Health & Safety Courses

- Health & Safety at work
- Risk Assessment
- Manual handling
- Food Hygiene
- First Aid

Microsoft PC Base courses

- Intro or intermediate
- Word
- Excel
- Access/project
- Power Point
- Outlook/email

These sought after courses are held in prestigious locations, you'll be trained by experienced tutors that are fully certified, some of these courses would normally cost up to £350, however they are subsidised and are absolutely **FREE** to help unemployed people get back to work.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Education & Training

Dance away the flab...

COME and dance away the flab at local belly dancing classes!

Jan Price explained: "Belly dancing has taken the UK by storm and I've been running classes for five years.

"Tribal, veil dancing and belly dance – a gentle exercise that anyone can do at any age and any size; in fact, a belly is good!

"In my class, there are girls from nine years old to ladies of 75... we dress up and have fun.

"The first class will be in Llantwit Major Rugby Club on

Thursday, January 20 from 7pm until 8pm. The fee is £4 for the hour.

"Wear what you like, but flat comfortable shoes are good.

"We start off with a warm-up and nothing too strenuous. It is all gentle exercise, but it makes a difference... and best of all, it builds self-esteem and confidence."

All that Glitters... New Belly Dancing Classes

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£4

Fitness can be fun!

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Redundancy need not ruin your career

BEING made redundant is never pleasant, but after more than 15 years with the same company, redundancy was particularly hard for Jane.

As for many people, Jane's redundancy wasn't a surprise but, nevertheless it was a major knock to her confidence.

Careers Wales gave Jane a grant towards re-training to help her move forward in her career.

She explained: "I was keen to get back into employment as soon as possible, and so my training needed to fit in with work commitments and my personal life.

"When I went into Pitman Training, I immediately knew it was the right place for me."

Pitman Training in Cardiff is run by Leanne Waring.

"Our method of learning is completely flexible and we aim to create a relaxed and non-threatening training environment," explained Leanne.

Jane is now working

as a medical secretary in Cardiff. "Deciding to learn with Pitman Training was such a good decision. I feel like I can really progress now, because I have the

right skills," she said.

For information on the range of courses on offer at Pitman Training in Cardiff, please call 02920 342020 or visit www.pitmancardiff.com.

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PETER WEIR'S FIRST FILM SINCE 2003 IS NOT QUITE WORTH THE WAIT AS...

The Way Back makes for a mundane journey

THERE are directors who barely pause for breath between projects, moving from one film to another as if their lives depended on it; however, there are others who, for a myriad of reasons, are far more selective when it comes to their films.

Terrence Malick is perhaps the most notable of these, averaging a film every seven years, yet Peter Weir isn't that far behind him, the Australian director having shied away from the big screen since 2003's *Master and Commander*.

However, Weir makes his return with *The Way Back*, set in a Siberian gulag in 1940. It stars Jim Sturgess as Janusz, a Polish soldier who finds himself ensconced in the gulag and sentenced to hard labour.

Deciding he wants to escape, he teams up with several other men (among them Colin Farrell and Ed Harris) in order to do so; but having escaped the gulag, the men find that they might not be able to escape the elements as they begin the long and arduous trek to India, and hopeful salvation...

Peter Weir's seeming allergy to regular film-making means that when he does take on a project the feeling is that it is going to be something special; after all, films

such as *The Truman Show*, *Gallipoli* and *Picnic at Hanging Rock* are easily classics in their own right.

So the fact that Weir agreed to take charge of this hugely inspiring story (the origins of which have been questioned since the film's release) obviously meant that *The Way Back* would be a film that would live in the exalted company of the above mentioned films... except it doesn't.

Instead, the end product has the class and skill you would expect from a director of Weir's calibre, yet the story itself, no matter how impressive, comes across as quite dull and formulaic, spoiling what could have been a really good film.

The fault certainly doesn't lie with Weir in visual terms, the director always having a wonderful eye and here, given long landscapes and vistas to work with, he creates a film that is visually gorgeous.

Given that the film was produced in part by National Geographic, you can see where the inspiration comes from, the film resembling at times one you would find on their channel, with Weir's direction lending them a hugely cinematic feel.

The Siberian wastelands and the Gobi desert are framed with such elegance that Weir more than holds up his end of the bargain, the film looking stunning –

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

it is just a shame that the story's translation to screen wasn't handled with the same amount of care.

It certainly starts strong, the opening showing how Janusz has been betrayed by a wife who has suffered unimaginable tortures to make her talk about her husband, and our first impression of life in the gulag hitting home strongly; but after that the usual meeting of loose allies with a common goal begins and it bears little difference to the many other 'break-out' films that you've seen.

You have the noble hero Janusz, the stoical one (Ed Harris' Mr Smith), the loose cannon who may or may not be trusted (Farrell's Valka) and a rag tag mob of secondary characters.

Where Keith R Clarke and Weir's screenplay doesn't work is in drawing any tension out of the group. A pre-credit caption informs us that three men make it to India, so we're aware that we'll be losing cast members on the way, but rather than play up the inter-group relationships, instead the pair only rarely mine that particular strand, the film instead blandly concentrating on heroism rather than the dynamics of this group of men struggling to escape.

Similarly, given that they have escaped from the gulag, there are very few moments of any genuine peril for the

group, no threat of being caught or found by the Russians who imprisoned them.

While it may well indeed be closer to the tale spun by Slavomir Rawicz, upon whose book the film is based, it is very dull in storytelling terms, making it feel episodic and lacking in verve and surprise.

The performances help to elevate the film to a degree, with Sturgess in the lead doing an engaging turn as the film's key protagonist. Telling the story from his point of view and showing his desire to eventually return home makes him the most engaging character here, and Sturgess' performance is solid and rootable, the instigator of this plan to escape taking on more and more responsibility as things start to go out of control for the group.

Similarly, Ed Harris is never less than a watchable onscreen presence, and his turn as Mr Smith, an American captured by the Russians, is just that, the grizzled character softening as the group's journey goes on.

The rest of the cast are just there to make up the numbers, though Colin Farrell is compelling though under-

written as the criminal who forces his way into Janusz's plans, while Saoirse Ronan offers a pleasing yet slight turn as a girl the group find on their way.

But despite the best efforts of the cast, it doesn't help them that the script makes you feel emotionally distant from them and their aims.

It is the inability to draw emotion, the lack of conflict and an engaging story that make *The Way Back* a somewhat less-than-compelling piece of work.

While Weir's visual abilities make it a wondrous sight to behold, the script's weaknesses make it a disappointing return for the director, and an underwhelming film in general.

VERDICT: Something of a letdown, given the prestige of the director, *The Way Back* makes for a pretty mundane and lifeless journey, save for Peter Weir's gorgeous visuals and some solid performances from the likes of Jim Sturgess, Ed Harris and Colin Farrell.

Too much journey and not enough conflict and drama makes this a dull take on an engaging story. *Average.*

(See Screen Talk's top ten films of 2010 on page 25)

Researcher lands top post



Ann Taylor is pictured with Professor Judith Hall, Head of Department - Anaesthetics, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine, Cardiff University and Jane Hutt AM.

WELSH Woman of the Year, Ann Taylor, of Barry, who was honoured for her pioneering research, has been promoted to Reader in Cardiff University's department of anaesthetics.

At a special event in the Senedd, highlighting the benefits of research work to society, she was congratulated by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

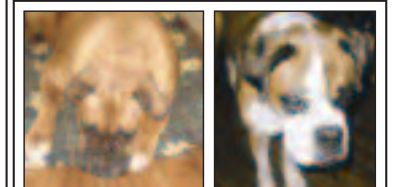
"The contribution Ann Taylor has made in the field of pain research and education is outstanding.

"She has developed the MSc in pain management for health care professionals, developed stand-alone modules for GPs and other health professionals and chaired the Welsh Pain Advisory Board," the AM commented.

Pictures at an exhibition

'Barry – People and Places', a pictorial exhibition by Tom Clemet takes place on January 9 until February 6 at The Room in the Park, Victoria Park, Cadoston, Barry, between 10am - 4pm daily.

It includes an exhibition of team, school, and club photographs from times past, together with the places they attended.



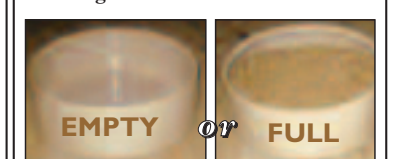
The GEM Winter Pet Food Appeal

sponsored by **SCATS Farm & Country**

More than ever, our local animal shelters are under massive strain to home and feed an ever growing number of pets, that, for one reason or another, are no longer in their own homes.

Christmas may be over - but the animals still need to be fed!

If you can help feed a sheltered animal this winter, please bring your pet food donation to The GEM in Cowbridge and we will get it to one of the local shelters.



Thank you, from all the animals!

Out and About with The GEM

The GEM and Ferris Entertainment offer unique opportunity to local performers!

Win a scholarship for acting, singing and dancing...

GEM/Ferris Entertainment Voucher
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FREE MASTERCLASS

Your chance to learn from world class tutors in Screen-acting and Dance

JANUARY 15th from 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
at Stanwell Hall, Victoria Road, Penarth
(Opposite Station Approach)

Participants must be 10 years of age or over.

ABOVE: Take this voucher along to the GEM/Ferris Entertainment free masterclass for the chance to win a term's free tuition.

FOLLOWING the great success over the last three years of the GEM/Ferris Entertainment Scholarship, two more lucky GEM readers – one male and one female – will be given the chance of a free term of tuition worth £155.

At Ferris Entertainment

Performing Arts Saturday Classes the talented winners will be taught screen acting by teachers who have taught the likes of Martine McCutcheon, Louise Redknapp, Claire Sweeney, Claire Goose, Sheree Murphy and Russell Brand to name but a few!

Peter Ferris explained: "All you have to do is present your voucher from The GEM when you sign in

at the free masterclass. "You will then be given a badge to identify you to the teachers and principals of Ferris Entertainment Performing Arts.

"At the end of the masterclass two lucky GEM readers will be chosen by the teachers and awarded the scholarship.

"Other participants will be offered the opportunity to enroll for the term."

The former scholarship winners have been Jemma Birkett (2008), Elliott Ismail (2009) and Verity Campbell and Jimmy Webster (2010). Jemma, Elliott and Verity have just appeared in the film 'Audition for a Vampire' which will be previewed at film festivals in 2011..

The free masterclass will be held at the Stanwell Hall, Victoria Road next to the Padgett Rooms, Penarth on Saturday January 15 from 2pm - 5pm. Those aged from 10 years old to over-18s are welcome to attend.

For further information, or to have directions emailed to you, please contact Peter Ferris, Ferris Entertainment on 07801 493 133 or via email: info@ferrisentertainment.com.

What's On – in brief

Dyspraxia support

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, January 10 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group, which supports children with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as ADHD, Asperger's, dyslexia) and their parents and carers, will be hosting a fun quiz.

It provides advice and information, as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

Charity coffee

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan's charity coffee morning will be held at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, January 11 at 10.30am-12noon.

All proceeds will go to Barry Ladies Choir.

New WI

A NEW evening WI is being planned in Pencoed, at St David's Church Hall, on Wednesday, January 19 at 7.30pm.

Telephone 01639 881588 for further information.

New toy and train sale set for Penarth

THE first of the all-new Cardiff Toy & Train Sales to be organised by Chris Dyer, takes place on Saturday, January 8 – a new show for a new year.

Already well-established at other venues in Wales, including Barry, Brecon, Llanelli and Carmarthen, the new event fills a large gap left by the ending of previous shows by different and unconnected organisers.

Chris explained: "There has been a lot of pressure on us from the public and traders to take Cardiff under our wing, even though it has meant virtually starting from scratch and finding a new home for the show."

"However, after much work behind the scenes, we have settled on the excellent Penarth Leisure at Cogan. This venue is

very easily accessed as well as having a railway station alongside.

"It also offers large free car parking and a very large, well-lit and well-heated main hall and, as always, we shall be bringing in a quality caterer on the day."

Four dates are planned for Cardiff shows and the second event will take place on Saturday, April 2 with further events in July and October. Chris added: "The trade support for the new Cardiff Toy & Train Sale has been very positive and we are highly encouraged and this new show will greatly complement our successful Barry event."

For more information, please telephone 01643 702757/07966 694579; or go to website: www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

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10.30am - 3.00pm

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Academy adopts Noah's Ark appeal!

BARRY'S Superstars in the Making, which recently performed to over 1,000 people at the Memorial Hall Theatre, has grown from strength-to-strength over the past 18 months, and now has over 130 students!

Recently, students appeared in the final of Queen's Arcade's XMAS FACTOR. The academy has decided to adopt the Noah's Ark Appeal as its charity and has already donated £100 from SUPER-STARS LIVE!

Superstars will be providing the entertainment for The Noah's Ark appeal at their special event at The Hilton Hotel, in Cardiff, this



ABOVE: dancers demonstrate their skill.

February.

Superstars will hold open auditions on January 8 at St John's Ambulance Hall, Barry (end of Beryl Road and in Gladstone Park) for its thriving musical theatre department.

Successful applicants will perform at the Hilton and will also have other opportunities

in 2011. Ages 10-13 will audition from 2pm-2.45pm, and ages 14-21, 3pm-3.45pm.

Superstars will also be touring a production of *Blood Brothers*. Details available by calling 07531814820 or visiting www.superstarsinthemaking.com.

CB

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www.ferrisentertainment.com

What's On – in brief

Rhoose surgery RHOOSE councillors Jeff James and Gordon Kemp are holding one of their regular advice surgeries on Saturday, January 8 at 10am until 12 noon at the Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose.

No appointment is required and all Rhoose ward residents are welcome. Further information, call Jeff James on 01446 710690.

Cadets recruiting

BARRY Army Cadet Force is starting the new year by doubling the parade nights to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm-9pm.

Anyone aged between 12 and 15 years old can turn up with a parent on a parade night to sign up near the Memorial Hall.

Fibromyalgia support

THE Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia support group monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11. Contact group leader Barbara Clissett on 0845 345 5813 for further details. Calls are charged at standard rate

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07894275853

NEW CONSULTANT Penarth – Monday 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church
Elfed Avenue
Sarah
07525852288

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Barry – 10.15am
Castelland Community Centre
Belvedere Crescent
Niki
01446 740394

Cowbridge – 10.00am
The Duke of Wellington
High Street
Lina – 01656 890708

EVENING GROUPS MONDAY
Barry – 4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynston Hall,
Junction of Court Road & Llanover street
Lorraine
01446 407002

Rhoose – 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre
Celtic Way
Helen
01446 750738

TUESDAY Barry – 5.45pm
Market Street Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne
01446 404897

Barry – 4.30pm
St. David's Methodist Church Hall
Winston Road
Annmarie
01446 736534

Llantwit Major – 4.45 & 6.35pm
The Old School
Wine Street
Helen
01446 750738

Sully – 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki
01446 740394

WEDNESDAY Barry – 4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre
Park Rd, Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie
01446 736534

Barry – 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne
01446 404897

Cowbridge – 6.00pm
Duke of Wellington High Street
Lina – 01656 890708

THURSDAY Barry – 6.00pm
Highlight Park Community Centre
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Annmarie
01446 736534

Dinas Powys – 6.30pm
The Cabin, by swimming pool
Hebron Hall
Alison
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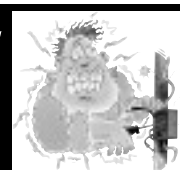
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Tel: 01446 721168 or 07813 134123
Reasonable rates

GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

LINDSAY Oliver Stewart

You were only with us for one day; you were perfect to us in every way, you will stay in our hearts forever. Greatly missed by your loving Parents Charnaine and Stewart, and your big sister Maddy. Private family funeral service.

DAVIES David

Peacefully on December 30 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, David formerly of Cowbridge. Beloved husband of the late Beryl Elaine, dearly loved father of Sally, much loved grandfather of Huw and Gethin. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon until a private cremation.

Gershenson Jean

Suddenly on Friday December 24, 2010 at Llandough Hospital after a short illness, Jean, aged 84 years. Beloved wife of the late Stanley, devoted mother of Philip, Paul and the late Julia, mother-in-law of Linda and Sue, and grandmother to Matthew, Paige and Christopher. Will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her. Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the service at Cychurch Crematorium on Wednesday January 12, 2011 at 2.45pm. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

BURTON Letitia (Letty) Nee Dodd

Peacefully on December 31st at Barry Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. Letty, formerly of Burtons Wool Shop, Boverton, a well known pianist within the community of Barry and also known for her many years working at the Principality. Devoted wife to the late Arthur and much loved mum to Peter and Elaine. A wonderful Grandma and Great Grandma, also a special sister of Harold. Letty will be so greatly missed by all her devoted family and friends. Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry until her service at Salem Baptist Church, Beryl Road, Barry on Friday, 14th January at 1.00pm followed by interment in Barry Cemetery. Flowers welcome and may be sent to the Funeral Home. All enquiries to Lyndsay J Ellis at Park Funerals 01446 421212.

Birthdays



Keep Smiling, it's your Birthday!!

MICHAEL PUGH

03.01.1972
Happy Birthday from Ann, Kayleigh and all staff at the Farmers

Doreen Evans

Happy 80th Birthday

9th JANUARY
'Have a Nice Day'

Lots of Love, Rees, Susan, Neil, Keith, Pat, Alastair and Elliot

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE for up to 4 weeks for 50p a word plus VAT. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to "The Glamorgan Gem" at The Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel: 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

MAMAS & PAPAS COT as new £55. Mothercare highchair, perfect condition £25 ono. Tel: 01446 771307 Cowbridge. (51)

ROLEX OYSTER Perpetual date just stain-

KITCHEN-CONSERVATORY TABLE
French, painted white, Italian tiled centre, plus 4 matching chairs, £150; Pictures/ornaments £25 and less.
Tel: 01656 656041 (012)

ZANUSSI VERTICAL FREEZER
7 drawers, virtually new, 5ft 6in high, cost £330, major credit cards accepted. No time wasters; Vairefrost larder fridge, 4ft 6in high, cost £150, reasonable offers please, no time wasters.
Tel: 02920 708967 (012)

less steel/white gold. Boxed one year old, authenticity certificates. £2,600 ovno, cost £4,490. Tel: 01446 745859. (51)

ANGLIAN Fully glazed Georgian style white PVC front door and frame £100. Tel: 01446 794093. (51)

FOLD-UP BED and mattress. New, £30. Tel: 01446 742772. (50)

MAN'S SARACEN Mountain bike, new £350. Sell £250 ono (cash). Tel: 01446 795275. (50)

DURESTA GEORGE Brand new large sofa and armchair, antique gold velvet. RRP £3,500, sell £2,800 ono. Tel: 07891 793915 or 01446 760688. (50)

TWO SEATER SETTEE with two fully reclining electric armchair, burgundy, excellent condition £350 ono. Mantis cultivator / hedgecutter, also strimmer and shredder £175 for all (can be separated. 4ft bed with headboard, good condition £30. Tel: 01446 404679 (evenings only). (50)

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL Design: one pair of curtains, 2 double duvets, pillow cases, sheets, bean bag £50. Beautiful ornate gold mirror cost £100, sell £50. Tel: 01656 772160. (50)

4FT DRAWER DIVAN BED Mattress/headboard, as new, 9 year guarantee £125. Tel: 01656 661237. (50)

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB news round-up



LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club:

December 7 - First, Mark Roderick and Mike Best 56 per cent; second, Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews (54); third, Mike Close and Denis Mottram (51). **New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone Alan and Lyn won on 01446 733425.**

Megan meets her champion!



ABOVE: Megan with jockey McCoy.

NATIONAL Hunt Champion jockey AP McCoy, who was chosen BBC Sports Personality of the Year at the weekend, took time out to be pictured with Megan Brown, grand daughter of Llantwit Major estate agent Anthony Brown, at Ffos Las Racecourse recently, writes Brian Lee.

Megan, aged 11, is a keen horse racing enthusiast and a novice rider and gymnast. She attends all the local point to points and horse race meetings in Wales and her grandfather Tony is well known on the Welsh hunt-racing circuit.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Vale AM's surgery

JANE HUTT AM's next surgery is tomorrow (January 7) at 4pm-6pm at 115 High Street Barry, CF62 7DT.

No appointment is necessary. For more information, contact 01446 740981.

Street surgery

LABOUR councillors for the Gibbonsdown ward, Barry, Rob Curtis and Margaret Wilkinson, will be holding a street surgery in the Aberaeron, Clos Llawhaden, Magellan and Columbus Close area

on Saturday, January 8 from 11am-12noon.

Ward surgery

THE Labour Vale of Glamorgan and Barry town councillors for Castletown ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake and Karl Kuhnell, will be holding an advice surgery on Saturday, January 8, from 10.30am-12pm in the Drop-in-Centre, No 3 Dunlin Court, Thompsons Street Estate, Barry.

No appointment is necessary. Contact Coun Elmore on 07867 506116 or 01446 401595.

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£100 to £1,000

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Up to £150 paid on collection, for scrap, MOT failures, and tax expired vehicles. Also body shells and scrap metals collected. No wheels, no problem.
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54 MAIN STREET, CADOXTON
Telephone 01446 420520

Cadoxton Funeral Home

FREEZE BRINGS QUIET TIME FOR POLICE

POLICE have revealed that crime and public disorder were down throughout Bridgend county borough over the Christmas and New Year period.

Insp Steve Evans, who is the Bridgend sector inspector, said that crime rates generally were down in the town.

Police throughout the borough received extra money from the Safer Bridgend Partnership to put on increased patrols to tackle problems caused by shoplifting gangs and other criminals.

He said that all three town centres benefited from this money, which paid for additional patrols to be provided.

He said that Bridgend was busy over the holiday, especially on Christmas Eve, Boxing night and New Year's Eve, and while there were some arrests and problems, generally speaking, it was quieter than in previous years.

He added that the bad weather before Christmas and the intense cold reduced the number of people coming into the town.

Insp Evans stated that crime was down across the board, including auto crime, burglaries and assaults – and violent crime was well down on last year.

He added that the police and council licensing officers had done a lot of work in the run-up to Christmas, speaking to

landlords and licensees, and this seemed to have paid off.

Insp Ralph Harris in Maesteg said that the public order and crime situation in the town had been very good over the period, and he said that the cold weather resulted in a lower volume of people going out in the nights to pubs and clubs.

Insp Alan James in Porthcawl reported a similar picture.

He said that the bad weather affected the number of people out partying and public order problems and crime were also well down.

Cottage windows plan approved

THE owner of an old cottage in the Newcastle Hill Conservation Area of Bridgend is being allowed by planners to change the wooden windows at the property to ones made of uPVC.

Miss C Haskayne, of The Square, applied for consent to make the change which is needed as the house is located within a conservation area.

Councillors heard that the windows would be of a sliding sash design and similar ones have already been permitted at other properties nearby.

Objections were lodged by Bridgend Town Council as the house is within a conservation area.

Planning officers recommended that the application be approved because the development complies with council policy and would not adversely affect the character or appearance of the Newcastle Hill conservation area to a point where refusal could be justified.

Quiz League posers

NO quizzing until January 10, but here are your teasers:

1. Who became the first freely elected President of the Russian Federation in June 1991?
2. In which book of the Old Testament is the story of the collapse of the walls of Jericho told?
3. Who rode the winner of the 2010

Cheltenham Champion Hurdle Binocular?

4. "Per Mare, Per Terram" is the motto of which of the Armed Forces?

Here's wishing you all a happy New Year.

A RUDGE

ANSWERS
1. Boris Yeltsin.
2. Joshua.
3. Tony McCoy.
4. Royal Marines.

Porthcawl under-11s hit their best form against Cowbridge

ON a bleak and bitterly cold Sunday morning, Cowbridge under-11s welcomed Porthcawl to their Vale home for an eagerly anticipated fixture.

As the whistle blew, both sets of forwards clattered into each other and thus set the pattern for the hardest game Porthcawl had played since the two teams met in the final of the Abergavenny tournament the previous spring.

On that occasion, the Seaweeds narrowly beat the Green and Whites by one try to nil.

This latest encounter looked to be shaping up much the same, as neither side were willing to yield and inch. The first breakthrough came after

some fine forward play by Ben Collins, Max Budding and Lloyd Mortimer.

Will Mahoney, sprinted through a gap for an excellent try assisted by the 'go forward' play of centre Dan Williams.

Cowbridge rallied but could not get out of their own half, even though they were playing downhill. Porthcawl's outside-half Brandon Cooper's kick-offs were so precisely delivered that it was easy for the Green and Black players to chase and put Cowbridge under more pressure.

Next on the score sheet was the free-scoring Louis Protheroe with a dash and dive to put Porthcawl firmly in control. Louis followed this up with two more fantastic tries to put the Seaweeds home and dry by half time.

After a couple of textbook tackles, Joe Stradling finally got himself on the scoreboard after a much-practiced move involving excellent scum-half Ben Roach, who got the team going forward with his strong running on numerous occasions.

The sixth try of the morning was eventually scored by Ethan Waters after Brandon Cooper had got over the line but failed to minor.

Louis popped up for his fourth, and 'birthday boy' Harry Evans charged over for Porthcawl's eighth. All eight tries were converted by 'kicking machine' Brandon Cooper.

Final score:
Cowbridge 0,
Porthcawl 56.

Forward of the match was Louis Protheroe and back of the match was

PORTHCAWL WELCOMES MARATHON BIKE RIDERS

A PORTHCAWL Masonic Home recently played host to a veterans' group who are fundraising by riding their motorbikes around the UK.

'The Long Ride Home' has been tackled by retired Masons and they are visiting Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI) Homes throughout the UK.

They arrived at the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, Porthcawl – Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI), and were given a big welcome.

The ride has been organised by Michael Robinson (captain of the Motorbike Rider Group) and Mark Pierpoint from the rider group based in Leicestershire and West Yorkshire.



ABOVE:

Michael Robinson, captain of the motorcyclists, presenting Sonia Vincent with a bottle of bubbly. She accepted it on behalf of resident Doris Hughes, who won the sweepstake competition run by Ron Saunders to guess the time of arrival of the motorcyclists. Doris was, unfortunately, unavailable to collect her prize.



ABOVE: Alyson Owen-Neil, home manager and Ron Saunders, Mason and resident, presenting a cheque for £150 sponsorship to Michael Robinson. Ron also presented Michael with a cheque for £26, the proceeds of the sweepstake that he ran to guess the time of arrival of the first motorcyclist.



Sonia trying her hand at riding a Harley Davidson motor bike.

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Ladbroke's Betting & Games – Unit 4, Brackla Street Centre, Bridgend – internally illuminated fascia and projecting signs.

Mr W Swift – land adjacent 1 Hanover Court, Bridgend – fell ash tree.

Mr S James – land adjacent 1 Dinam Street, Nantymoel, Bridgend – pair of semi-detached houses.

Portland Toilets Ltd – Unit 12, Heol yr Ynys, Abergarw Trading Estate, Brynmynyn, Bridgend – erect new industrial workshop/stores building.

Mr and Mrs D and GE Morgan – Ty Gwyneth (Haulfryn), Fforydd y Gyfraith, Bridgend – inclusion of land into curtilage of holiday let.

D and GE Morgan – land south of Haulfryn, Fforydd y Gyfraith, Bridgend – change of use from residential to holiday let garden.

Mr R Harry – 9 Bryn Henfaes, Broadlands, Bridgend – construct a single storey extension.

Mr and Mrs B Trigg – 16 Westfield Avenue, Bridgend – uPVC white conservatory with glass roof and front dwarf wall to match existing house and plaster internal walls.

Mr Jordan – 8 Caeau Duon, Pencoe – conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr N Woods – 3 Bron Hafod, Broadlands, Bridgend – proposed conservatory to rear and domestic garage to side.

Mr J Barber – Llwyn Onn, 49 Blackmill Road, Bryncethin, Bridgend – erect mast and aerials for amateur radio to replace existing aerials.

Mr and Mrs Viant – 2 Birch Walk, Porthcawl – side orangery-style conservatory.

Mr G Williams – 39 Beach Road, Porthcawl – single detached replacement dwelling with associated garaging and landscaping works.

Mrs N Jarvis – 11 Gwendoline Street, Blaengarw, Bridgend – rear two storey kitchen/bedroom extension.

Ladbroke's Betting & Games Ltd – Unit 4, Brackla Street Centre, Bridgend – new shopfront, entrance door, stallrider and blocking up of rear door opening.

Ladbroke's Betting & Gaming Ltd – Unit 4, Brackla Shopping Centre, Brackla Street, Bridgend – siting of external air handling plant to rear elevation.

Mrs Rhian Davies – 2 Court Road, Bridgend – change of use from office to physiotherapy clinic.

Mr S Tatchell – 21 Ty Fry Close, Brynmynyn, Bridgend – retention of raised decking area.

Royal Porthcawl Golf Club – Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, Porthcawl – construct extension to clubhouse for improved main entrance hall/lobby with combined disabled lavatory/store.

KFC UKI – KFC, Heronston Retail Park, Bridgend – one external entrance portal with

internally illuminated logo and one internally illuminated pylon sign.

Mr Stanley Smith – land adjacent A4063 Coytrahen, Bridgend – construct handstanding and install pre-fabricated mobile home and associated amenity block for use by a gypsy family.

Mr Allan Brookes – St Mary Magdalen Church, Heol Las, Mawdlam, Bridgend – extension to vestry area for toilet facilities with disabled access.

Mr A Honey – 36 Kensington Drive, Cefn Glas, Bridgend – demolition of existing garage and replace with single storey extension to side and rear.

Mr and Mrs S Williams – 13 The Retreat, Porthcawl – construct single detached dwelling in grounds of Russett House, 13 The Retreat.

Mr and Mrs S Williams – 13 The Retreat, Porthcawl – part demolish existing single storey extension, construct first floor extension and garage, remodel dormer and porch and refurbishment works.

Mr H Hall – Red Gables, Rogers Lane, Laleston – two storey extension and kitchen extension.

Mr Chris Hatt – KFC, Heronston Retail Park, Bridgend – external alteration to store including new entrance portal, fascia panels render brickwork to tower feature and pylon signage.

Mr Paul Mattravers – 17 Pant Hendre, Pencoe – a single storey rear extension to a detached dwelling.

Mrs Lucy Jones – Cornelly Integrated Children's Centre, Greenfield Terrace, North Cornelly – installation of an outdoor sun canopy on a soft play area.

Mrs A Jones – 56 Severn Road, Porthcawl – single storey extension.

Mr N Seaward – 22 Park View, Maesteg – single storey extension.

Mr George Gardner – 19 Coed Bach, Pencoe – bathroom dormer extension.

Compute Bridgend Limited – 37 Caroline Street, Bridgend – proposed new A3 unit.

Communities First – Wildmill – Wildmill Community Woodland, Quarella Road, Bridgend – timber play structure for community woodland park.

Regeneration and Planning Division RCT – Mynydd Portref/Mynydd Hugh north of Brynna RCT – application to vary condition 21 (noise level limiting) as imposed on 06/1325 for 11 wind turbines and associated equipment.

Mr and Mrs N Taylor – 65 Wyndham Crescent, Bridgend – demolish existing porch, new porch to side, construct single storey kitchen extension to rear, conversion of roof space.

SCREEN TALK'S TOP 10 FILMS OF 2010

THE end of a year is generally a good time for reflection on what the last 12 months have meant.

In Screen Talk's case, it is an opportunity to look back at a cinematic year where 3D became the *de rigueur* method of getting 'bums on seats'; where Tony Curtis, Blake Edwards, Dennis Hopper, Irvin Kershner and Leslie Nielsen (among others) went to the great film studio in the sky; and where dress like *Vampires Suck*, *The Last Airbender* and *Clash of the Titans* made me wonder 'why'?

Having undertaken strong scientific study, Screen Talk's top 10 films of 2010 are now ready for consumption, as we look back at the cream of 2010's crop.

10 CEMETERY JUNCTION

If Ricky Gervais' first foray onto the big screen with *The Invention of Lying* was a damp squib, then his first cinematic team-up with regular cohort Stephen Merchant was a rip-roaring success.

A coming-of-age tale set in Reading, the film transcended its British roots to concentrate on the universal themes of growing up, family ties and love, and showed that Gervais and Merchant were more than just skilled comedic writers, the film carry-

ing a lovely counterpoint of drama within it. **9 SCOTT PILGRIM vs THE WORLD** Having shown glimpses of his directorial ability with *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*, as well as TV sitcom *Spaced*, it was *Scott Pilgrim*... that saw director Edgar Wright let loose, using influences as wide and varied as manga, to computer games, via action blockbusters.

Visually, it was unique, but with a cast, including Michael Cera and Mary Elizabeth Winstead, upping their game, the end result was a hugely enjoyable, if headache-inducing, film.

8 BAD LIEUTENANT

What do you get when you team Werner Herzog, one of the most quietly insane directors working in cinema today, and Nicolas Cage, an actor who, when pushed, can go to the edge in a heartbeat?

The answer is one of the most bonkers, yet incredible, pieces of cinema this year. With Cage showing he's capable of more than just sailing through family films, and Herzog bringing a skewed sensibility to the process, *Bad Lieutenant* was a mad, yet superb, film.

7 WINTER'S BONE

This low-budget independent drama was a modern-day noir set in the Missouri backwoods, where a teenage daughter has to track

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

down her errant father, who had put the family's house up as a bond.

Featuring a truly mesmerising turn from Jennifer Lawrence as the daughter, *Winter's Bone* was a chilling, gripping film that took its time to tell a story that hooks from start to finish.

6 A PROPHECY

This French crime epic drew comparisons to *Scarface* upon release, but it was a film that was worth far more than that.

Following an French-Arab teen as he makes his way through the prison system, the film was held up superbly well by a breathtaking turn from Tahar Rahim, and showed that, along with *Mesrine*, the French certainly know how to make a sophisticated crime drama.

5 KICK-ASS

If the over-reliance on comic book properties means that the bubble may be about to burst, then *Kick-Ass* made sure that it went to the top of comic book adaptations to hit cinema screens.

With little faith in its abilities, the film was a critical, if perhaps not commercial, success – a shame given that Matthew Vaughn had given the genre a good kick up the 'ass'.

Further adventures are planned, though given the skill of this one, it'll be a tricky job to live up to!

4 SHUTTER ISLAND

The fourth pairing of Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio was arguably the most fruitful of their outings thus far. The twisty turning thriller kept you guess-

ing to the end, with the climax itself leaving you in mystery.

With stellar turns and a spooky score, Scorsese seemed more alive than ever behind the camera, the slow-burning film dripping tension – an outstanding piece of work.

3 THE SOCIAL NETWORK

'The Facebook film' was one that told the story of the origins of one of the most valuable companies in the world, yet dug beneath the surface to offer an in-depth (if not necessarily 100 per cent accurate) background to the events that shaped the company.

With David Fincher lending the film a strong visual element, and Aaron Sorkin's dialogue shining brightly, a cast of bright young things turned this tale into one of the most enthralling of the year.

2 TOY STORY 3

The general rule of a trilogy is that the final outing makes for the weakest – too many loose ends to tie up, no cliffhangers; it was a rule that *Toy Story 3* smashed to pieces, the finished film being a truly outstanding, and emotional, way to say goodbye to Woody, Buzz et al.

With a more mature approach, Pixar hit the bullseye yet again, but it was the style and substance that made this film a step above all other animations this year.

1 INCEPTION

With the success of *The Dark Knight* giving him carte blanche, Chris Nolan's follow-up to the third biggest film of all time was a spectacular, mind-bending, multi-layered delight, that had you scratching your head and dropping your jaw on a regular basis.

Perfectly primed for multiple viewings and opinions on what was a dream and what wasn't, *Inception* marked Nolan as one of the directors of the moment, and what else he is capable of makes the mind boggle!

Evening of music and dance at Memo

VIBE Experience held its annual talent showcase the 'V Factor' at Barry Memorial Hall Theatre.

Despite the icy conditions, and various stomach aches, 139 young people from across the Vale performed to a very high standard.

The event was a celebration of all the hard work that the young people had displayed over the past term with

dancers from Motion Control Dance Programme, singers from the Singing Academy and lyric writers, rappers and musicians from the MMX Project.

The event was watched by family and friends of the young people, as well as guests from the Arts Council Wales, Children in Need and the Home Office – who fund these exciting projects.

Christmas gifts for Ty Hafan



Lyndsay Ellis and Huw Adams Of Park Funeral Directors with grateful staff at Ty Hafan.

PARK Independent Funeral Directors recently presented 120 chocolate selection boxes to children at Ty Hafan.

Lyndsay Ellis, the funeral manager, was delighted with the response to his call to make

Christmas more pleasant for the young patients.

He said: "I love and enjoy taking part in our community activities and am so happy to be a part of the community Of Barry and The Vale."

"We held a Christmas Memorial Service at King

Square at the end of November which was well attended, bringing our community together to remember loved ones at this time of the year, and now, with the success of this Chocolate Selection Box Appeal, the community has united again."

PACT meetings

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Learning and Community Centre, Barry, January 12 at 7pm.

COURT PACT, Scout Hall, Illminster Street, Barry, January 13 at 7.30pm.

GIBBONS DOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, Barry, January 14 at 10am.

TWYN-YR-ODYN coffee and chat meeting, Horse and Jockey, January 11 at 11am.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, Llantwit Leisure Centre, January 11 at 7pm.

COWBRIDGE PACT, Fire Station, Druids Green, January 17 at 7pm.

WENVOE Community Council meeting, Wenvoe Community Hall, January 18 at 7.30pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Memorial Hall, January 10 at 7pm.

Roadworks report

Footway restriction in place at Pontypridd Street, junction with Mount Pleasant, Barry. **Temporary traffic control:** Colcot Road between Winston Road and Whitewell Road, Barry;

Five Mile Lane, Barry near junction for Northcliffe Farm; Cowbridge Road, Bonvilston.

Advanced warning: movement of an abnormal load, delays expected – from Bridgend Industrial Estate to A48 onto Cowbridge High Street onto A48 onto Five Mile Lane onto Port Road onto Barry Docks.

Penarth Computer Club: Dinner, chips (and chat!)

EVERY year the club has a Christmas dinner where members are encouraged to bring along their partners for a friendly social gathering.

This year was no exception and in spite of ailments and inclement weather, 38 of us enjoyed a good meal and a fun evening.

The chairman thanked everyone for coming and for the opportunity to meet the 'other half'.

In particular, he thanked Roy for all the hard work in preparation and management of the whole affair.

After the traditional funny story, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and reminded them of the Chips and Chat Night soon to follow.

At the Chips night, one new member was pleasantly surprised to discover that the chips were of the potato variety

and the chat was about things other than computers.

Mike J conducted a light-hearted quiz. This time it was designed to prevent Steve using his encyclopaedic knowledge of music to win yet again. It didn't work.

It would appear that Steve knows a thing or two about other things as well, films in particular. No wonder members are quite keen to be on his team!

The chairman conceals his inability to answer the questions by the devious ploy of collecting the fish and chips instead. He is, of course, quite capable of eating his fair share; possibly due to years of practice.

He thanked Mike for the quiz and Nick for the hot drinks and wished them one and all a Merry Christmas.

He then reminded everyone of the annual general meeting in January and talked about the programme that needs to be settled at that

time. Members were asked to let the committee know what topics they would like to have covered in the meetings up to July.

The topics could be mini master classes to do with one tiny feature of computing as a how-to-do-it session, or the illustration of broader areas of computing where it would be sufficient to register for future reference that a computer is capable of doing something.

He stressed that there was scope for both types of evening and that the club was keen to meet the needs of its members.

He pointed out that the notices for the AGM also contained a nomination form for the election of officers and committee and that they should be used to enable the posts of secretary and treasurer to be filled to ensure the continued smooth operation of the club.

Howard Desmond

Barry chorister hits high note with Postcode lottery!

PENSIONER Anthony Bastick was "overwhelmed" when Welsh rugby legend Scott Quinnell knocked on his door and handed him a cheque from People's Postcode lottery.

Anthony, who sings with the City Voices Choir in Cardiff, won the £2,500 when his postcode, CF62 3EN in Rhose, was drawn as a Welsh street prize winner.

He said: "It was a tremendous surprise. I've never won anything in my life. It was wonderful to meet Scott Quinnell too."

Speaking before Christmas, Anthony was planning to share his windfall with his two daughters and four grandchildren: "They'll all be getting a nice Christmas present this year and I'll be able to give some money to



charity as well," he said.

People's Postcode lottery is Britain's charity lottery. Players play with their postcodes to win cash prizes while raising money for good causes.

For £10 a month, players are entered into five draws every month, each with a top prize of £30,000. Over 500 postcodes win prizes in every draw and there are around 2,000 winning tickets every week.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D649.

● The rollover, which now stands at £7,500, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 195650.

● £10: 398248,

580624, 542716, 228765,

187933, 842168, 460538,

859086, 616366, 380990,

623974, 477914, 695149,

474685, 662273, 285368,

237341, 474999, 893056,

594283.

● £5: 763439, 768284,

620551, 221634, 178425,

143418, 564490, 160252,

170749, 191779, 557683,

876044, 301654, 158808,

247141, 594212, 571525,

825568, 871370, 710686,

830554, 931631, 694002,

678583, 285338, 208904,

613501, 399497, 748181,

139317, 622234, 304363,

811819, 351722, 783137,

248998, 571127, 216691,

100948, 206801, 502477,

884043, 834130, 151874,

439969, 216995, 485997,

899005, 797222, 762455,

831286, 410295, 994602,

828466, 146305, 866695,

354000, 111556, 136741,

132396.

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan

Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D650.

● £2,000: 266672.

● The rollover, which now stands at £8,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 140826,

482536, 898167, 767971,

594315, 313407, 846143,

764321, 512667, 668491,

289529, 331282, 288375,

497871, 825328, 294627,

496516.

● £5: 247938,

276668, 305548, 633765,

626161, 863500, 263719,

590741, 241760, 657100,

503962, 140519, 755247,

163832, 343872, 159377,

819686, 432991, 749151,

853278, 300207, 318215,

229568, 460008, 999651,

132386, 336921, 569660,

118284,

343990, 155365, 104802,

518034, 242344, 117648,

141973, 278697, 444104,

822719, 891826, 199965,

364239, 107155, 315948,

485848, 268543, 243439,

642593, 800615, 393102,

353692.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

CRAFTS, A BRAN TUB, MULLED WINE AND BACON ROLLS AT PETERSTON'S MARKET!

PHOTOGRAPHS by
IAN DIXON

PETERSTON HALL COMMITTEE held its Christmas market on Saturday, December 11 with craft stalls, bran tub, games, mulled wine, plus bacon rolls and coffee to start the day.

Entertainment came from Pontyclun Junior School Folk Dance Club, Peterston Primary Dance Ensemble and Choir, finishing with carols from a group of choral villagers.

The event was a great success, raising more than £1,800 which will pay for refurbishment of the hall.



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07 57 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR 26K MILES	£3975
FORD		
07 57 FORD FIESTA 1.4TD STYLE CLIMATE IN BLACK 20K MILES	£7625
07 57 FORD FIESTA 1.6 GHIA AUTO IN TANGO 19K MILES	.....	£7475
07 57 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE AUTO IN AQUARIUS 9K MILES	.....	£7175
07 57 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE ESTATE IN TONIC 3K MILES	.....	£7675
07 57 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE IN BLUE 19K MILES	.....	£7775
07 57 FORD C-MAX 1.6 ZETEC SDR MPV IN TONIC 12K MILES	.....	£7675
07 57 FORD FUSION 1.6 ZETEC AUTO IN AMETHYST 4K MILES	.....	£6675
HONDA		
07 56 HONDA JAZZ 1.4SE SDR PACIFIC BLUE 4K MILES	.....	£7625
10 10 HONDA CIVIC SE 1.4 SDR AUTO CLUTCH 2K	.....	£12875
NISSAN		
09 59 NISSAN NOTE ASENTA 1.4 SDR IN SILVER 3K	.....	£9325
08 08 NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 1.4 SDR IN PACIFIC 8K MILES	.....	£7675
RENAULT		
07 57 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 PRIVILEGE SDR IN PEARL 10K MILES	.....	£6575
07 57 RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 2.0VVT DYNAMIQUE (7 SEATS) 11K	.....	£7575
VAUXHALL		
07 57 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.45XI A/C SDR IN SAPPHIRE 10K MILES	.....	£7775
09 59 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN SDR AUTO IN STAR SILVER 4K MILES	.....	£9275
07 57 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.45XI SDR IN STAR SILVER 12K MILES	.....	£7175
09 59 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.65XI 3DR IN STAR SILVER 17K MILES	.....	£8575
07 57 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6CLUB MPV CHOICE OF COLOURS 20K MILES	.....	£7075
10 10 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN 1.6 SDR MPV IN ULTRA BLUE 3K MILES	.....	£11175
VW		
07 57 VW POLO 1.2 S SDR IN CORNFLOWER BLUE 9K MILES	.....	£7775
09 09 VW POLO 1.2SE SDR IN DEEP BLACK 8K MILES	£10975
08 58 VW GOLF 1.9TD MATCH IN BLACK 19K MILES	£11875
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APR Typical

NEWS FROM, THE BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB

Party time for bridge club!

ON AND OFF THE TURF
with Brian LeeEvan's Ffos
Las double

LLANCARFAN'S
Evan Williams
landed a double at
Ffos Las last week
with *Oscar Gogo*
and *Pilgreen*.

Oscar Gogo took the
Ronald Jessett 85th
Birthday Handicap
Chase, and *Pilgreen* the
Eileen Rees Birthday
Maiden Hurdle.

Eight-year-old *Oscar Gogo*, partnered by
Adam Wedge, won by
four lengths from the
Tim Vaughan-trained
Betabob, ridden by
Michael Murphy, and the
French bred five-year-old
Pilgreen scored by
two lengths from the
favourite, *Master Fiddle*.

Pilgreen was ridden
by stable jockey Paul
Moloney and *Oscar Gogo's* rider Adam
Wedge (21) is a graduate
of the British Racing
School. A former point-
to-point rider, his claim
to fame was in winning
the £55,000 DBS Spring
Sales Bumper for his
former boss Chris Bealy.

Good news is that the
Penttyrch Hunt point-to-
point fixture at
Bonvilston on April 23

will stage a ladies' open
race which will qualify
for the AGA Ladies'
Championship.

AGA chief executive
William McGrath said:
"The championship
offers a chance to cele-
brate the achievements of
women riders and we're
very excited to be
involved."

"This is a grass roots
campaign for us. We esti-
mate there are around
400,000 owners of AGA
and Rayburn cookers
throughout the country
and we're confident
we'll see many of them at
point-to-point meetings."

Meanwhile, Connolly's
RED MILLS UK is to
continue its support to
the UK point-to-point
scene. Again, this year
there will be 20 qualifiers
for the Intermediate
point-to-point series and
the National Champion
Horse award for 2011.

The final will take
place at Cheltenham
Racecourse on May 4.

Send your news/views
to Brian Lee at leebri-
an@btinternet.com or
phone him on
02920736438.

LATEST results
from Barrivale are
as follows:

Tuesday, December
14: First were Denis
Mottram and Noelle
Bond with 57.81 per
cent. In second place
were Irene Thomas and
Graham Jones (57.29)
and in third were Eileen
Hughes and Carol James
(56.77). Helen Jordan
and Judith Owen won on
handicap.

The Barrivale
Christmas party was held
on Friday, December 10.
The results of the
evening's individual
bridge event was as fol-
lows: Winners on scratch

were Celia Thomas,
Mick Green, Lyn
Matthews and Alan
Jones.

Handicap winners
were Betty Lewis, Huw
Thomas, Vivien Liles
and Hilary Laurence.

Nearest to average
score were Noelle Bond,
Jane Brook, Helen
Jordan and Tom
Kendrick, and the prizes
for a good effort went to
Diana Kendrick, Carol
James, Sean Macdougall
and Maureen Charlton.

New members are
always welcome at
Barrivale. For more
information, telephone
01446 733425.

Table tennis club
resumes after break

THE Cardiff & District free of charge. There is
Table Tennis League's no joining fee and no
Club obligation to come reg-
Community Club ularly, but players are
which meets every required to pay a sub-
Friday from 7pm-9pm scription of £2 per
in the Upper Hall of evening.
the Welsh Institute of

Sport, Sophia Gardens, We use 16 table ten-
Cardiff, resumes on nis tables, so there is
Friday, January 7 and room for all!

invites youngsters and For more details,
adults of all ages and telephone 01446
abilities to come along 412352 or roygib-
for a game of table ten- son@ntlworld.com or
nis with players of their visit the website
own ability. www.cardiffitf.org.uk

Bats, balls and some ROY GIBSON
coaching are provided

End of season kart
championships are
highly competitive

LLANDOW Kart
Club's 2010 season
finished a little
later than planned
with the popular
Celtic
Championships,
ensuring a third
highly-charged
meeting in succe-
ssion.

Postponed from its
original date by the first
'big freeze' of the south
Wales winter, the cham-
pionships finally took
place on Sunday,
December 12 during a
brief break in the weath-
er. Seven classes pro-
duced 58 hardy competi-
tors, each getting a qual-
ifying session, heat and
pre-final before the tro-
phies were decided in
the main events of the
day.

The smallest field of
the day got things under
way and, without his
season-long rivals,
Honda Junior proved to
be something of a stroll
for Welsh champion
Lloyd Sealy, who went
fastest in qualifying and
reeled off three race
wins to claim a title dou-
ble.

The rapidly improv-
ing Monty Gorrige
claimed second each
time out, with fellow
novice Jack Hixon gain-
ing valuable track time
as the third and final
runner.

A 13-kart group, fea-
turing a mix of new and
familiar names, com-
bined to form the Cadet
class, with the outcome
of each session closely
fought. Fletcher
Trueman's Honda Cadet
topped the lone qualif-
ying session from lead-
ing Corner runner James
Small, but it was Small
who drew first blood
when racing began, win-
ning the heat from Ryan
Edwards and Ross
Thomas.

Small also won the
pre-final, from Brandon
Patrick and Edwards,
but it was the latter who
came good when it mat-
tered, beating Patrick by
just over a second to
claim the Celtic title.
Small was again the best
Corner runner, claiming
third overall.

The biggest grid of
the day was provided by
a mixed Junior
TKM/Minimax field,
with 16 drivers weighed
slightly more heavily in
favour of the former.
Niall Williams (TKM 2-
Stroke) claimed qualif-
ying honours, ahead of
Ben Davies and James
Moorcroft (both
Minimax), but it was
Minimax that took the
first race win, with
Morgan Rose heading
TKM stalwarts
Sebastian Hutchinson
and Josh Collings across
the line.

Hutchinson would go
on to make a habit of
coming second, finish-
ing as runner-up in both



Chris Davis claimed three race wins en route to the Senior Rotax Celtic Championship title.

the pre-final and final,
as Welsh TKM 4-stroke
champion Andrew
Davies came through to
claim victory on each
occasion. While
Collings was third on
the road in the pre-final,
he was an early retire-
ment in the main event –
along with Rose and
Moorcroft – allowing
TKM runner Zach Jones
to complete the podium.

Ben Davies took
Minimax honours, ahead
of category debut – and
new LKC Cadet champi-
on – Harry Williams.

Four drivers braved
the elements in Senior
Honda and, in the
absence of Dragon
Challenge champion
Ferdinand Ball, top spot
was fought over by
Welsh champion Simon
Evans and seasoned
returnee Chris
Lipscombe.

Evans topped qualif-
ying before Lipscombe
emerged on top of a heat
that also saw veteran
Paul Saunders ahead of
the 'C' plate, but order
was restored thereafter,
with the Welsh champi-
on winning both the pre-
final and final by small
margins. Lipscombe was
second on both occa-
sions, with Saunders and
Nick Turley completing
the field.

Having been thwarted
in his bid to win the
combined
TKM/Minimax final,
Collings was not to be
denied in Junior Rotax,
sweeping the board each
time the field ventured
out. Comfortably fastest
in qualifying, he went
on to win the heat, pre-
final and final to claim
the coveted 'CC' plate,
while the order behind
him changed with each
race.

Macaulay Austin was
the most consistent chal-
lenger, appearing in the
top three in every out-
ing, but he had to settle
for second in the main
event. Robbie Gallier,
Ryan Wheeler and JJ
Wilson all suggested
that they may be con-
tenders but, ultimately,
it was Josh Gray who
ended the day on the
podium.

Senior Max rounded
out proceedings with
another strong field, but
it proved to be the
domain of Chris Davis
once racing began.
Buoyed by recent strong
results, Liam Revell
opened up on top in

festivities before kicking
off 2011 with the annual
dinner and awards cere-
mony.

RESULTS

JUNIOR HONDA: 1,
Lloyd Sealy; 2, Monty
Gorrige; 3, Jack Hixon.
HONDA CADET: 1,
Ryan Edwards; 2,
Brandon Patrick; 3, Alex
Rees.

HONDA CADET: 1,
James Small; 2, Edward
Tansley; 3, Lucas
Wynne.

**JUNIOR TKM 2-
STROKE:** 1, Sebastian
Hutchinson; 2, Zach
Jones; 3, William Shaw.
**JUNIOR TKM 4-
STROKE:** 1, Andrew
Davies; 2, Alex Thomas;
3, Ryan Jones.

MINIMAX: 1, Ben
Davies; 2, Harry
Williams; 3, Ross Chell.
SENIOR HONDA: 1,
Simon Evans; 2, Chris
Lipscombe; 3, Paul
Saunders.

JUNIOR ROTAX: 1,
Josh Collings; 2,
Macaulay Austin; 3,
Josh Gray.

SENIOR ROTAX: 1,
Chris Davis; 2, Liam
Revell; 3, Dean Arthur.
ROTAX 177: 1, Simon
Wheeler; 2, Wayne
Stone; 3, Dan Orlandea.

Report: Craig
Llewellyn
Photo: Hardy Rodde

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05 55 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0i 12v Life 3-dr Hatchback. In purple spell with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, power steering, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 29,820 miles... £3,695

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- 07 07 LANDROVER Range Rover Sport 2.7 TD V6 HSE 5-dr Station Wagon Automatic. In Stormaway grey with black leather interior, climate control, cruise control, privacy glass heated front screen, only 29,500 miles... £31,995
- 07 07 KIA Sorento 2.5 CRDI XE Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon in quartz grey/purple with grey interior, air con, CD, roof rails, four wheel drive, service history, only 36,500 miles... £12,995
- 05 55 BMW X5 3.0D Sport Exclusive Edition 5-dr Station Wagon Automatic. In carbon black Ecru individual Nappa leather interior, aluminium running boards, heated seats, multi CD, sat nav, Bluetooth phone prep, only 59,000 miles... £19,995
- 05 05 NISSAN X-Trail 2.2DCI 136 Sport 5-dr Station Wagon. In Merlot Red with Warp grey interior, front fog lights, climate control, multi CD, cruise control, immobiliser, only 35,000 miles... £8,995
- 04 04 AUDI TT Coupe 3.2 V6 3-dr Coupe Quattro. In dolemit grey with grey leather interior, climate control, traction control system, multi CD, BOSE sound system, only 35,040 miles... £9,995
- 03 53 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 3.2 R32 3-dr Hatchback. In diamond black with black leather interior, electric sunroof, cruise control, 18" alloy wheels, metallic paint, climate control, service history, only 63,000 miles... £8,995
- 02 02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible. In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles... £9,995

PRESTIGE

- 07 07 BMW X3 2.5si SE Automatic in platinum bronze metallic with sand beige leather interior, aluminium running boards, cd, front and rear parking sensors, heated seats, only 33,160 miles... £18,995
- 07 07 BMW 520d 2.0TD SE in Monaco blue with dekota black leather interior, rear parking sensors, bluetooth phone prep, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, automatic air con, only 52,180 miles... £12,995
- 06 56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary i-pod connection, only 20,010 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers... £9,995
- 05 55 ASTON MARTIN DB9 5.9 Volante 2-dr Convertible Sequential. In metallic blue with beige leather interior, cruise control, sat nav system, rear parking aid, wood trim, only 7,220 miles... £POA
- 03 03 BMW 3.0 330 Ci convertible. In topaz blue with montana grey leather, rear parking sensors, multi cd, alloy wheels, heated seats, only 55,200 miles... £9,495
- 02 52 MERCEDES Benz CLK 2.6 240 Avantgarde 2-dr Coupe. In Tanzanite blue with alpaca grey leather interior, luxury climate control, Parktronic sensors, cruise control, service history, only 73,400 miles... £7,495
- 02 02 JAGUAR X-type 2.5 V6 Automatic Sport 4-dr Saloon. In Anthracite Black with Sand sport leather interior, reverse park control, automatic climate control, cruise control, privacy glass, colour coded bumpers, only 70,080 miles... £4,995
- 02 51 MERCEDES BENZ C-Class 2.0 C180 Sport Coupe in brilliant silver met with Ascot interior, dual zone climate control, cruise control, auto lights, cd, alloy wheels, only 70,647 miles... £4,995

SPORTS

- 09 59 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 16v Turbo SRI (Nav) In lightning silver metallic with Vitesse interior, full colour navigation, alloy wheels, climate control, cruise control, phone prep, only 14,500 miles... £13,995
- 09 09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles... £13,495
- 07 57 MINI Cooper 1.6 (120) Chili Pack 3-dr Hatchback. In pepper white with carbon black half leather interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, rear parking sensors, service history, only 56,000 miles... £9,995
- 07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback. In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 38,598 miles... £11,995
- 07 07 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4i 16v sport 2-dr cabriolet in air blue with charcoal alpha interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, cd, front fogs, only 48,730 miles... £6,995
- 06 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSI (170ps) FT 5-dr in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles... £9,995
- 06 56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback. In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles... £8,995
- 06 55 MAZDA MX-5 2.0i Sport 2-dr Convertible In Winning blue with black leather interior, multi CD, air con, heated seats, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, only 36,900 miles... £7,995
- 06 55 RENAULT Megane 2.0 VVT 136 Privilege 2-dr Coupe Cabriolet. In metallic gold with magnolia leather interior, luxury pack, climate control, multi CD, cruise control, panoramic roof, only 9,250 mls... £6,995
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- 05 55 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDI 110 Sport 5-dr hatchback in flamenco red with black Merlin interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, body coloured bumpers, only 50,600 miles... £4,995
- 05 55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles... £4,995
- 04 54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 TDI (100ps) Sport 5-dr in rosewood red pearlescent with scala sports interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, cd, only 59,790 miles... £4,995
- 04 04 BMW 3 Series 2.0 T2 320CD Sport 2-dr coupe in orient blue with beige leather interior, sat nav, wood trim, TV automatic air con, MV2 alloy wheels, only 93,440 miles... £8,995
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- 04 54 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles... £3,495
- 03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles... £3,995
- 89 89 G BMW 3 Series 320i 2.0 2-dr Convertible. In silver with black leather interior, headlamp cleaning system, M-Technic steering wheel, wood effect trim, electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, only 68,140 miles... £4,995

FAMILY

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GEM sport

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC MIX WITH THE ELITE OF WELSH RUGBY

BRIDGEND Athletic, like most of the teams in the Welsh Swalec League, has suffered at the hands of the recent poor weather, and the autumn international.

The last league fixtures for both the First and Second XV's was on November 20.

The First XV had an excellent 26-23 away win at Corus and the Second XV enjoyed a 31-19 home win against Rhiwbina.

The only game possible in December was a first round Swalec Cup tie in which the Athletic defeated high riding Division One East side Giffach Goch by 18-12.

This set up a lucrative home tie on January 29 with Premiership leaders Pontypridd.

The Swalec Cup has afforded the Athletic the chance to mix with the big boys of Welsh rugby. They have played Swansea home and away, Cardiff and Newport away and claimed the scalp of former leading side Newbridge at home.

The Athletic also played Maesteg away when they were still a Premiership club.

They have played Llanelli away in a friendly – so in their short history have mixed with the elite of Welsh rugby –

Neath being the only exception.

In the league, they have played 10 games this season winning four, drawing two, and losing four. They have 233 points for and 238 against – with 25 tries for and 24 against.

Outside half Steven Lewis is the leading points scorer with 52 points, followed by scrum half Tom Davies on 43.

Wing Lloyd Pemberton is the leading try scorer with six, followed by centre Robert Coles on four and two tries apiece for scrum half Aled Thomas, outside half Lewis and wing Lyndsey McCausland.

Dan and Rod Apsee, Wayne Fookes and captain Sean Williams have played in all 10 league games, while Simon Mustoe and Aled Thomas have only missed one league game.

In all, 34 players have made a first XV appearance this season.

Fixture secretary Keith Thomas is looking to rearrange the two home postponed games against Bonymaen and Whitland and the away game at Maesteg.

Hopefully, the league fixtures will resume this Saturday, January 8, away at Carmarthen Athletic – followed on January 15 by a local derby at home to Bridgend Ravens.

Both sets of coaches were apprehensive at this first game for more than a month and it was the home side who started better, dominating the breakdowns. A good handling move saw the Ath go over for the first try.

Time after time they won the ball at the rucks and deserved another quick try. Pencoed were slow to get any pattern to their play. Sam Costelow was not able to make any jinking runs. Mikey Bosley and Josh Sands could not smash through the defensive line through lack of possession and Bridgend ran in a well deserved third try.

With one conversion, the home side were 17-0 up and in complete control. A change of positions and a little good fortune resulted in Pencoed running in a try from Tom Bending, converted by Tyrone Harding, just before the half-time whistle.

Shell shocked, the visitors regrouped and at the start of the second half began to compete at the breakdown. Iestyn Galton, called up from the under-9s, showed that he was comfortable at this level and broke through a few tackles to run in a quick try.

Things now began to click and the running game Pencoed are known for was on show. Sam Costelow now had some quality ball and ran in a 20 yard try. Mikey Bosley started taking crash balls and broke through for Pencoed's fourth and fifth try.

Owain Johns was now dominant at the rucks, Cael Chamberlain and Ben Sullivan were driving the mauls which allowed more ball skills from the Pencoed backs and Tom Bending ran in a final try for a tremendous come-

back. Final score: Brigend Athletic 17 Pencoed 38

SECOND GAME

The line up was changed but the determination was the same from both sides.

The visitors began as they finished the previous game, with some great handling skills. Tom Bending quickly went over to start the scoring. Pencoed were now attacking from every phase of play with Ioan Richards and Robbie Griffiths setting up the ball of each breakdown.

Sam Costelow was giving quick ball for Josh Sands, Mikey Bosley and Tyrone Harding to dazzle the Ath defence. A powerful run by Josh Sands began a series of attacks which resulted in Sam Costelow going over twice in quick succession. Mikey Bosley crashed over and Josh Sands made it his brace just before the whistle.

Pencoed could not wait to restart and to Bridgend's credit, they defended to the last. It was only a matter of time before Sam Costelow was set up to exploit the spaces and ran in another two tries.

Deservedly the home side ran in a try into the corner from some dogged work from their forwards but Pencoed had the last say. The final play of the game saw them pick and drive through the Ath's defence and Mikey Bosley picked up and spun out of a tackle and drove over for a try.

This was another outstanding display against a formidable Bridgend Athletic side, more so as a few players were unavailable for Pencoed. Man of the match went to Iestyn Galton, who had an excellent game playing up from the under-9s.

Final score: Brigend Athletic 7 Pencoed 61

The Second XV, led by Tom Cole, are competing in the newly-formed league for second XV's from Premiership and first division sides.

They are currently in third place having played seven, won five, drawn one and lost one.

In the league, they

have 241 points for and 137 against, with a favourable 33-16 try count.

Tom Cole is the leading points scorer with 83.

Nick Hinton leads the try count with eight touchdowns followed by Richard Fussell on seven, Owen Harris with five

and Cole with four.

AB

Altogether, 51 players have turned out in the league with Nick Hinton and Andrew Tyler playing in all seven games, followed by Dean Greenslade, Andrew Guy, Stuart Kenny, Nick Jones and Rhys Jones on six.

AB

PENCOED JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Under-14s are back on track after victory

FOR the first time in five weeks, Pencoed under-14s had a match against the Swansea team, Dunvant.

Even with a sluggish start, the boys pulled it together and there was good passing all around. There was good defence by the forwards and the first try of the day was scored by forward, Jac Briggs, successfully

converted by Alex King. Dunvant went on to score their first and only try of the day, while back, Ellis Griffiths, scored a try for the Pencoed squad and Jac Briggs scored again, converted by Alex King.

New boy, James Merchant put in one of the best tackles of the day and scored his first try since joining the Pencoed squad. Jac Briggs was awarded the man of the

match. Final score Dunvant 5 - 24 Pencoed.

Squad: James Merchant, Jac Briggs, Scott Ewing, Morgan Jefferies, Josh Maunder, James Whittaker, Johnny Clatworthy, Dan Maiden, Chris Cooper, Aex King, Morgan Jefferies, Liam Bowen, Ellis Griffiths, Jamie Dyer, Jordan Fox, Jason Clatworthy, Lewis Brennan, Joe Watkins and Kristen Morgan.

JM

Under-10s in comeback win over local rivals

AFTER their arranged fixture was called off Bridgend Athletic under-10s invited local rivals Pencoed to Newbridge fields.

Both sets of coaches were apprehensive at this first game for more than a month and it was the home side who started better, dominating the breakdowns. A good handling move saw the Ath go over for the first try.

Time after time they won the ball at the rucks and deserved another quick try. Pencoed were slow to get any pattern to their play. Sam Costelow was not able to make any jinking runs. Mikey Bosley and Josh Sands could not smash through the defensive line through lack of possession and Bridgend ran in a well deserved third try.

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MB

South Wales Regional Schools cross-country championships at Trelai Park

Girls show the boys just how it is done at meet

WORDS: PETER MORRIS
PHOTOS: IAN DIXON

AFTER the disappointing medal haul achieved by the Vale boys at the 13th South Wales Regional Schools championships, there was joy for the girls at their regional schools event when they showed that they are a match from the pupils from the other four local authorities of Bridgend, Merthyr, Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Glamorgan Valleys section of Caerphilly, and local rivals Cardiff – by claiming four individual medals and two sets of team medals.

The opening race, for senior girls in year-11 and above, at Trelai Park on a dry but windy afternoon was dominated by two Bridgend county residents, Zoe Thomas (Porthcawl) and Ffion Lewis (YG Llanhari).

Vale girls filled eight of the remaining top 20 places, with year-12 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) finishing clear of Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral) to take third place.

Seren Allin (Cowbridge) has made an outstanding start to the season, winning both of the Cardiff and the Vale year-7 girls' races. Seren and all the other year-7 girls met the year-8 contingent for the first time, and again she came out with flying colours, taking second place to the outstanding pre-event favourite, year-8 Rosa Yates of Brynegg.

Although there were



Year-7 Seren Allin finished second in the under-13 race, and led Cowbridge to a successful defence of the team title.

76 Vale girls in a field of 284 finishers, only four more achieved top 20 places: year-8 pupils Ana Mirza-Davies (Stanwell, 12th), Nadine James (Cowbridge, 13th) and Rebecca Thomas (Cowbridge, 16th) and year-7 Emily Wooster (Stanwell, 15th).

While defending champion Rebecca Evans (Y Pant, year-10) was always in control of the last of the three races on the afternoon programme, the under-15 event for girls in years-9 and 10 was a very tight contest between the next quartet of pupils for the remaining medals.

In the end, experience told with Megan Osborne (Llantwit, year-10) just getting the better of Kate Seary (Whitchurch, year-9) to repeat her 2009 second placing with Kate Coker (Stanwell, year-9) taking the fourth placed medal.

For the Cowbridge squad, there was joy both at year-7 and in the senior sections. At year-7, they retained the title won last year while, in the seniors, they went one better than 2009 to claim top spot. Seren Allin, Nadine James, Rebecca Thomas and year-8 Ela Emyr (36th) scored for the year-7 team while Fiona Bray (8th) led home the senior quartet, all from year-11, which also included Rachel Bradshaw, Katie Wynne and Bethan Allman.

Two other Vale schools narrowly missed out on team medals. At under-15, Llantwit placed three girls, Megan Osborne, Lucy Tarrant and Erin Hayes, in the top 10, but then had to wait until position 100 for their fourth scorer, just missing out on third place by seven points.

In the year-7 race, the improving Stanwell squad finished their four scorers in the top 39 places but missed out by 16 points on third place to Cardiff High.

The top Vale youngsters' next race may come in the New Year in the maroon and gold vest of Cardiff and the Vale Schools district in the inter county schools element of the McCain Cardiff Cross Challenge at Blackweir on Sunday, January 16.

Results – Vale girls
Senior girls, 4370m – 45



Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral School, 99) finished fourth in the senior race, missing out on an individual medal.

finishers: 3 Bethan Daw (St Cy) 17:17; 4 Caitlin Bryant (Cathed) 17:47; 8 Fiona Bray (Cow) 18:45; 10 Cerri-Anne Santos (St Cy) 19:24; 11 Danielle Green (SIRG) 19:48; 13 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 20:13; 15 Katie Wynne (Cow) 20:16; 19 Bethan Allman (Cow) 21:19; 20 Anthea Young (Lwt) 21:33; 26 Holly Preece (Cow) 22:47; 34 Alyson Bator (Cow) 24:27; 36 Sarah Herbert (Bryn H) 24:33; 37 Chloe Phillips (Lwt) 25:31

Teams: 1 Cowbridge 55

Under-15 girls, 3630m – 149 finishers:
2 Megan Osborne (Lwt) 14:04; 4 Kate Coker (Stan) 14:18; 8 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 14:48; 9 Lucy Tarrant (Lwt) 14:56; 19 Mirriam Bennett (Cow) 16:05; 29 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 16:49; 33 Kanisha-Mae Underdown (Bryn H) 17:07; 38 Kathryn Gardiner (Bryn H); 42 Ffion Davies (Bro M); 49 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H); 52 Caitlin Young (Bro M); 62 Bethan Yapp (Bro M); 63 Lauren Blake (SIRG); 64 Ffion Roberts (Bro M); 76 Kirsty Hogg (St Cy); 86 Chloe Webber (Bryn H); 88 Chloe Lewis (Stan); 89 Ffion Morgan (Cow) 19:32; 92 Susie Collins (Stan); 93 Eleanor Morgan (Cow); 98 Megan Langdon-Cryer (Cow); 100 Bethany Cleave (Lwt); 104 Sophie Thomas (Cow); 123 Zoe Hodgkinson (Bryn H) 21:36; 130 Kirby Redrup (Bryn H); 131 Leah Cunningham (St Cy); 135 Abbie Dee (SIRG); 138 Morgan White (SIRG).

Tondu under-14s' game hinges on very last kick

TONDU under-14s faced a tough game at Tonmawr.

It was Tonmawr who scored first, after the ball was turned over in mid-field, resulting in an overlap for the Tonmawr centre who ran in from 50 metres. The try was converted.

Tondu pressure was finally rewarded when Rhyddian Davies put over a penalty kick from the 22, and they continued to press and were awarded with another penalty, again kicked by Rhyddian Jenkins.

Tondu got their noses in front from another well-taken penalty kick by Rhyddian, but Tonmawr were soon back in front when their impressive centre ghosted through the corner-flagging Tondu defence

to touchdown at the corner.

Tondu were soon back in the lead after Rowan Davies picked the ball in his own 22, ran impressively down the wing and had the pace to touchdown near the corner.

Tondu continued to pressurise the home team. Geraint Gillet put in a delightful overhead kick on the Tonmawr 40 metre line; Owen Watkins impressively controlled the ball to get to the corner for the try.

Tonmawr mounted a final assault and Tondu had to defend attack after attack until Tonmawr finally got their try after a series of forward drives breached the defence.

The try was not converted, giving Tondu the win.

EJ